Speaker Biographies

The following biographies are for Federal, NGO, Academic speakers and signatories from the November 9, Urban Waters 10-Year Anniversary Celebration Event. Names are in alphabetical order.

Holly Bamford, Ph.D.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Chief Conservation Officer

Dr. Bamford is responsible for advancing the Foundation's mission through the creation and implementation of a comprehensive conservation vision, strategy and a metrics-based evaluation system for NFWF's grant-making programs. She serves an important role in creating and leading NFWF's conservation strategy by setting national and regional cross-cutting strategies, and by leading design, development and fundraising planning for the conservation strategy, as well as guiding the conservation policies and practices of the Foundation. Prior to joining NFWF, Dr. Bamford was acting assistant secretary for conservation and management for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). In that role, she drove administration policy, programming, and investments for NOAA's ocean, coastal and fisheries management. Her responsibilities spanned coastal resilience, marine protected areas, protected species, sustainable fisheries and coastal services. Dr. Bamford worked closely with members of Congress, other agency leaders, partner organizations, and local communities to develop policies and take conservation actions to ensure coastal and ocean stewardship. Dr. Bamford earned her doctorate in Organic Environmental Chemistry from the University of Maryland.

Diana Bauer, Ph.D.

Department of Energy, Advanced Manufacturing Office
Acting Deputy Director

Dr. Diana Bauer serves as the acting deputy director of the Advanced Manufacturing Office (AMO) within the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). In this role, Diana is responsible for technical coordination and strategic planning. She also has departmental and interagency leadership roles in energy storage, critical materials, and the energy-water nexus focus areas. Before joining AMO, Diana directed the Office of Energy Systems Integration Analysis within the Department's Office of Policy, where she and her staff looked at the connection between energy and other systems. She was the lead author of The Water-Energy Nexus: Challenges and Opportunities in 2014. Also, in the policy office, she led the drafting of DOE's 2010 and 2011 Critical Materials Strategy reports.

Before coming to DOE, Diana led the extramural sustainability research program at the Environmental Protection Agency, which focused on green engineering, green chemistry, green buildings, and transportation systems.

She has a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering with a concentration in green design and manufacturing from the University of California, Berkeley.

Sharunda Buchanan, Ph.D.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

Director, Office of Priority Projects, Innovation, and Environmental Justice

Dr. Sharunda Buchanan currently serves as Director of NCEH/ATSDR's Office of Priority Projects and Innovation (OPPI) where she provides leadership, management, and coordination of large-scale, priority environmental health initiatives and promotes innovation and "big idea" projects and prototypes. After receiving a B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in chemistry, toxicology, and biochemistry, respectively, Dr. Buchanan joined the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) as an Environmental Health Scientist in the Division of Toxicology in 1990; she later joined CDC as as an Epidemic Intelligence Officer assigned to the Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects (DEHHE). During her six-year tenure with DEHHE, Dr. Buchanan greatly contributed to the expansion of the National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes programmatic and research agendas. In 2001, Dr. Buchanan became Chief of the Environmental Health Services Branch, and served in this capacity until becoming Director of NCEH's Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services (DEEHS). As DEEHS director for a little over a decade (2007-2017), Dr. Buchanan provided leadership, direction and guidance to a multi-disciplinary team overseeing national and international programs related to lead poisoning prevention, food and drinking water outbreak investigations; chemical demilitarization of warfare agents; cruise ship inspections; community design, and overall performance improvement of core and emergency environmental public health services. Dr. Buchanan is committed to advancing health equity, attaining environmental justice, and improving environmental public health across the country.

Stephen Burrington

Groundwork USA

Executive Director

Stephen Burrington is the Executive Director of Groundwork USA. He brings a lengthy record of accomplishment in the non-profit, government, and private sectors, along with a compelling vision for the organization and a deep commitment to our mission of changing places and changing lives. From 2007 until he assumed the Groundwork USA leadership role in 2014, he was a consultant to state and local leaders and diverse private sector organizations across the nation, planning and helping implement strategies in sustainable land use, transportation, and energy. His clients included the US EPA; governors' offices, state cabinet officials and mayors; environmental, business, and community development organizations; national foundations; and developers of renewable energy and transit-oriented development projects.

Steve was formerly Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, where he led the formation of the nation's sixth-largest and most diverse state parks, natural resources and infrastructure agency. He also served as undersecretary in the Massachusetts Office for Commonwealth Development, where he created nationally recognized programs for advancing sustainable development in cities and town centers. Before entering state government, Steve was Vice President and General Counsel for the Conservation Law Foundation, New England's leading environmental advocacy organization. He began his career as an attorney with the civil legal services program for low-income people in New Orleans, Louisiana, and is a graduate of the University of Edinburgh and University of Michigan Law School.

Michele Chang

U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy

Michele Chang is a seasoned executive with nearly 20 years of experience in the private, public and nonprofit sectors. She joins the Economic Development Administration as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Policy. She most recently was the Executive Director of the Rework America Business Network at the Markle Foundation, where she worked with Fortune 500 companies to help American workers without four-year degrees get the skills they need and access quality jobs.

Ms. Chang served in the Obama Administration as Acting Chief of Staff and Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), where she managed the day-to-day operations of the 3,000+ person agency. She also served as the agency's point person on policy issues with the White House's National Economic Council; coordinated cross-agency initiatives; and launched and ran new federal programs.

Prior to joining the Administration, Ms. Chang worked at McKinsey & Company, where she helped local governments, public school systems and Fortune 500 companies alike tackle some of their most challenging and urgent issues. She has also held roles at PricewaterhouseCoopers; and Hope Street Group, a national nonprofit where she led their national workforce development programs.

Ms. Chang earned her bachelor's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, in Mathematics/Applied Sciences and her MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. She was born and raised in San Jose, California, and currently lives in Maryland with her husband and three children.

Reginald Chapple

National Park Service (NPS)
Acting Assistant Director of Partnerships and Civic Engagement

Reginald "Reggie" Chapple is the Acting Assistant Director of Partnerships and Civic Engagement for the National Park Service (NPS). He supervises the Office of Partnerships and Philanthropic Stewardship, Tourism Office, Land and Water Conservation Fund – Stateside Grants, and the Office of Conservation and Outdoor Recreation which is inclusive of the trails program, wild and scenic rivers, and RTCA – rivers, trails conservation assistance program. He

was hired as the Division Chief of the Office of Partnerships and Philanthropy at the National Park Service (NPS) headquarters in Washington, D.C. He has 8 years of service with NPS. Mr. Chapple is responsible for all national strategies related to outdoor recreation, partnerships and philanthropy, branding / marketing, donor cultivation and vetting, partnership training, partnership construction over $1 million dollars in national parks, Friends Groups and oversight of the Director's Order #21: Donations and Philanthropic Donations policy. Prior to joining the NPS staff in December 2012, Mr. Chapple served as a Community Outreach Specialist with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Los Angeles Division. His FBI duties included public affairs and community engagement work over a five-county geography. Mr. Chapple has over 20 years of experience working as an executive in non-profit corporations. His non-profit experience includes serving as the Chief Operating Officer of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Greater Los Angeles, the organization founded by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He also served as President & CEO of a community development non-profit corporation in Los Angeles where he managed three National Registry Monuments with adaptive re-uses including affordable housing, childcare, youth recreation, a restaurant, technology lab, and a house museum. Mr. Chapple also established an academic center and served as the West Coast Center Director for the Southern New Hampshire University, School of Community Economic Development. The Center provided Master of Arts Degrees and credentialing for the non-profit community and corporate executives. His civic duties have included serving as an Area Planning Commissioner in Los Angeles and a member of the Los Angeles Historical Cultural Resource Inventory Survey Advisory Board. Mr. Chapple holds a Master of Arts Degree in Urban Planning from UCLA and Bachelor of Arts degrees in Journalism and International Relations from the University of Southern California. He is currently in the dissertation writing stage for a Ph.D. in Socio-cultural Anthropology at UCLA.

Andrea Suarez Falken

U.S. Department of Education
Director, Green Ribbon Schools/Recognizing Inspiring School Employees Award

As Director of U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS), Andrea Suarez Falken began and then improved upon a state and local engagement initiative structured as a recognition award that serves to highlight issues and strengthen collaborations regarding school facilities, health, and environment. In this role, Ms. Falken has developed and leveraged relationships with dozens of stakeholder groups, state education agencies, and federal agencies, encouraging better coordination at federal, state and local levels to the benefit of schools across the nation. For these efforts, Ms. Falken and the ED-GRS initiative have won a total of six national accolades. Over the years, she has grown ED-GRS to include district and postsecondary awards, in addition to the school award; an annual Green Strides outreach tour; robust social media engagement; and a School Sustainability Resources Hub.

While matters related to school facilities, health, and environment are state and locally determined in the U.S., at the urging of stakeholders, Ms. Falken has leveraged the ED-GRS award to eke out a role at the Department as the public liaison for these areas.

In addition, Ms. Falken now oversees developing the Recognizing Inspirational School Employees (RISE) Award for the Department. Enacted by Congress in 2019, this award recognizes the top classified school employee in the nation and encourages states to do more to recognize these employees at the state level.

Radhika Fox

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Assistant Administrator for Office of Water

Radhika Fox is the Assistant Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water. The Office of Water works to ensure that drinking water is safe, wastewater is safely returned to the environment, and surface waters are properly managed and protected. Prior to joining EPA, Ms. Fox served as Chief Executive Officer for the U.S. Water Alliance, Director for policy and government affairs for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, and the Federal Policy Director at PolicyLink. Ms. Fox has used her 20+ years of experience to address the most salient water issues facing the nation—including climate change, affordability, equity, governance, innovative finance, and the evolution of the One Water movement. Ms. Fox holds a B.A. from Columbia University and a Masters in City and Regional Planning from the University of California at Berkeley where she was a HUD Community Development Fellow.

Darryl Haddock

West Atlanta Watershed Alliance
Education Director

Darryl completed Jacksonville University with a BA in Geography and recently graduated from Georgia State University with a Master's degree in Geoscience and Applied GIS. Darryl has over 20 years of professional experience as an environmental scientist working for the consulting firm, Dames and Moore, as a principal investigator with USGS on a subsurface mapping project and as Environmental Specialist for the State of Georgia, Environmental Protection Division. Both Environmental Leadership Program and Toyota Together Green/National Audubon Society recognized him as a fellow and emerging leader in the environment and conservation movements. He is also certified as a Project WET Trainer, an Interpretive Guide by the National Association for Interpretation, and is completing an Environmental Education certification program with Advanced Training for Environmental Education in Georgia (ATEEG); a nationally accredited, professional certification program for formal and non-formal educators. Darryl coordinates educational programs, community outreach, and citizen science research activities and participates in WAWA's day to day operations.

Meryl Harrell

USDA Forest Service
Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment (NRE)

Meryl Harrell most recently served as the Executive Director of the Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards. She has also served as a consultant, advising non-profits, foundations, and government agencies working to conserve America's public and private working lands. During the Obama-Biden Administration, Ms. Harrell spent eight years in the Office of Natural Resources and Environment at USDA, including serving as Chief of Staff and then Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary. Ms. Harrell previously worked on public lands issues at The Wilderness Society in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Harrell received her J.D. from the Yale Law School, where she studied environmental law, and graduated magna cum laude with an A.B. in geosciences and environmental studies from Princeton University. Originally from New Jersey and more recently based in Atlanta, Georgia, Ms. Harrell can often be found out on the trails in our national forests with her husband and two children.

Jodie Harris

Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI)
Director of the CDFI Fund

Jodie Harris is the Director of the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund). The CDFI Fund generates economic growth and opportunity in some of our nation's most distressed communities. By offering tailored resources and innovative programs that invest federal dollars alongside private sector capital, the CDFI Fund serves mission-driven financial institutions that take a market-based approach to supporting economically disadvantaged communities.

Ms. Harris has worked in both the public and private sectors for over 25 years. Following her start as a commercial real estate and community development credit analyst, Ms. Harris served as president of a small non-profit consulting firm providing technical assistance and education to small businesses and entrepreneurs. She spent several years in the Strategy and Business Architecture division of Accenture, LLC, working with a range of clients including financial institutions, nonprofits and technology companies. Ms. Harris has extensive experience in policy research, and worked as a policy analyst with New York University's Institute for Education and Social Policy, and with the U.S. Department of Agriculture where she focused on low-income food programs.

Ms. Harris joined Treasury in 2007 as an Associate Program Manager with the CDFI Fund, and later served as Senior Advisor to the Director of the CDFI Fund. During her time with Treasury, she has managed grant programs and developed legislative and policy proposals for a wide range of issues with a focus on access to capital, community development banking, and financial inclusion. Most recently, as the Director of Treasury's Office of Small Business, Community Development and Affordable Housing Policy, Ms. Harris led a team of policy analysts in the development of policies and programs that support community and economic development nationwide.

Ms. Harris originally hails from Philadelphia and completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Maryland. She holds a MBA and MPA from New York University.

Melissa Klembara

Department of Energy Office (DOE), Advanced Manufacturing Office
Acting Consortia Program Manager

Melissa Klembara is currently acting as a Senior Technical Advisor in the U.S. Department of Energy’s Advanced Manufacturing Office (AMO), where she leading the office’s strategy on RD&D for industrial decarbonization and clean energy manufacturing. In addition to these duties, Ms. Klembara continues to lead over $200 million in RD&D investments in the areas of energy-water nexus and the circular economy of plastics. Specifically, Ms. Klembara is directing DOE’s National Alliance for Water Innovations (NAWI), a $136 million public-private

desalination RD&D consortium with over 230 members across the water community. Ms. Klembara is also co-leading a seminal DOE multi-office RD&D effort on the circular economy of plastics, including the Bio-Optimized Technologies to keep Thermoplastics out of Landfills and the Environment (BOTTLE) consortium led by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Previously, Ms. Klembara directed the $170 million public-private Manufacturing USA Institute on process intensification called RAPID with the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE). Prior to joining AMO, Ms. Klembara served as a Chief of Staff for both the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Energy Efficiency and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Renewable Power. She also spent several years as a Technology Manager in the Bioenergy Technology Office working on all aspects of their RD&D portfolio. Before joining the federal government, Ms. Klembara worked at International Paper Company leading a corporate-wide initiative to improve manufacturing and supply chain efficiencies. She holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineer from the University of Maryland as well as an MBA and Masters of Science in Energy, both from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Letise LaFeir, Ph.D.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Senior Advisor

Letise LaFeir, Ph.D., is a Senior Advisor at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.Prior to this role, Dr. LaFeir has served in both government and non-profit sectors to advance goals aligned with NOAA's mission. She was Director of Federal Policy at Resources Legacy Fund; California Ocean Policy Manager at Monterey Bay Aquarium; Policy Analyst and later National Outreach Coordinator for NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries; and Director of Government Relations and Education Program Coordinator at the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. Dr. LaFeir also spent one year as a Sea Grant Knauss Marine Policy Fellow for now-retired Congressman Sam Farr of California.

In addition to authoring or co-authoring several scientific publications and a book of poetry, Dr. LaFeir is a certified scuba diver (Advanced and Nitrox) and has traveled to all seven continents and the seafloor. She also founded Upwelling Consulting, LLC, and has served on several advisory boards.

Dr. LaFeir is a graduate of Brown University, with a B.S. in Aquatic Biology and a B.A. in English (with Honors in Creative Writing). She received a Ph.D. in Marine Biology from the University of Delaware-College of Marine Studies.

Scott Lundgren

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Director of the Office of Response and Restoration

Scott Lundgren is the director of NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration — NOAA's office dedicated to preparedness, response, and restoration efforts to protect coastal resources from threats of oil, chemicals, marine debris, and natural disasters. Mr. Lundgren joined NOAA in 2015 as the chief of the Emergency Response Division — the group within OR&R that provides scientific support for preparedness and response to spills and other coastal emergencies. During his time as division chief, Mr. Lundgren led scientific support for

preparedness for and response to over 600 significant spills and coastal incidents, including extensive response following recent hurricane seasons.

Prior to NOAA, Mr. Lundgren served as a 23 year civilian employee of the Coast Guard in several environmental response and incident management positions from the field to headquarters. He was the senior technical advisor to the Coast Guard's Marine Environmental Response program office and led the Coast Guard's all hazards preparedness division.

Mr. Lundgren lives with his wife and high school son in Fairfax, Virginia. Their daughter is currently a college sophomore in Boston. Mr. Lundgren holds a master's degree in natural resources management and biology from Harvard University Extension School, a master's degree in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College, and a bachelor's degree in biology and environmental studies from Tufts University.

Ronald Mason Jr., JD.

University of the District of Columbia
President

Ronald Mason, Jr., J.D., is the ninth president of the University of the District of Columbia (UDC), the only public university in the Nation's Capital and the only exclusively urban land-grant institution in the United States. With outstanding STEM-related programs in Green Technology, Engineering, Computer Science, Homeland Security, and Speech Pathology, Mason leads an emerging institution committed to providing affordable, quality and innovative learning opportunities that prepare students for the practical demands of the workplace.

Prior to his appointment at UDC, Mason served a five-year term as the chief executive officer of the Southern University and A&M College System, and he spent 10 years as president of Jackson State University. Earlier, Mr. Mason developed a successful record of progressive leadership at Tulane University, including senior vice president, general counsel, and vice president for finance and operations. He also served as the founder and executive director of the National Center for the Urban Community at Tulane and Xavier Universities.

A native of New Orleans, President Mason received his B.A. and J.D. degrees from Columbia University. He also attended the Harvard Institute of Educational Management.

David I. Maurstad

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Deputy Associate Administrator for Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration

David Maurstad is currently serving the role of Deputy Associate Administrator for Federal Insurance and Mitigation (FIMA), Senior Executive of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

David is a veteran emergency manager and staunch advocate of building a culture of preparedness across the nation. Forty years of experience in disaster resilience and the insurance industry suited his position as the head of FEMA's Insurance and Mitigation Administration, where he guided transformative efforts to communicate risk, increase flood insurance coverage and incentivize mitigation against natural hazards. As senior executive of the NFIP, he lead the largest single-peril insurance operation in the world providing more than $1.3 trillion in flood coverage to more than 5 million U.S. policyholders.

During his tenure with FEMA, David has held leadership positions for hundreds of disaster operations, including Hurricanes Katrina, Matthew, Irma, Maria and Michael, tropical storm Harvey and countless catastrophic flooding and wildfire events. David's expertise in disaster recovery and strategic risk management stems from extensive experience in local government as a Nebraska mayor, state Senator and Lt. Governor. David continues to drive the conversation around resilience with his bold call to action to reduce disaster suffering in our lifetime and for generations to come.

David earned his MBA from the University of Nebraska. He's a former board member of the National Academy of Science, Water, & Technology and was a senior federal official during the XIX Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Erik Meyers

The Conservation Fund
Vice President, Climate and Water Sustainability

Erik currently leads projects on climate adaptation and resiliency, provides leadership on urban and coastal water sustainability relationships, and assists with mitigation efforts. Recent projects include pioneering coastal marsh adaptation work at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge and a national nature-based coastal protection initiative led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Selected current and recent non-profit affiliations: Natural Capital Investment Fund d/b/a Partner Community Capital; US Water Alliance; Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Resiliency Work Group; Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition, Delmarva Restoration and Conservation Network, MD Climate Commission Adaptation and Resiliency Workgroup, SAGE Initiative, and National Aquarium Conservation Committee

Past employment: Formerly, Vice President and General Counsel, Environmental Law Institute; President, Public Committee on Mental Health. Professional Awards: US EPA for Outstanding Service on National Advisory Council on Environmental Policy; American National Standards Institute Meritorious Service Award; American Society of Adaptation Professionals Semi-finalist Prize for Progress.

Education: JD- Fordham University School of Law, and BSFS- Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. Member: NY, DC and VA bars.

Michele P. Perez

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Assistant Deputy Secretary for Field Policy and Management

With 25 years at the field and headquarters levels of service-driven agencies, Michele Perez has led programs and directed operations across government, non-profit and philanthropic organizations. As the Tahirih Justice Center's Chief Operating Officer, she oversaw the execution of policy and strategy that enabled Tahirih to support immigrant survivors of gender-based violence seeking asylum in the United States. She was responsible for leading local and national efforts in support of talent management, organizational development, finance, operations and risk management, and information technology.

Ms. Perez joined Tahirih from the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (formerly OPIC), where she served as Vice President of Management and Administration, as

well as a Senior Advisor to the President and CEO for Diversity, Inclusion and Engagement. Her leadership enabled partnerships with developing economies globally, encouraged more open, democratic and stable societies and improved the living conditions for low-income communities worldwide. Prior to OPIC, Ms. Perez worked at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), where she served as a key advisor and consultant to the VA Chief of Staff on human resources, strategic planning and financial management. During her tenure at VA, she was also charged with execution and coordination of workforce enterprise strategies for the Veterans Health Administration, the nation's largest integrated healthcare system with over 375,000 employees. Ms. Perez launched her civil service with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as a Community Builder in the Office of the Midwest Regional Director. While in Chicago, IL, she also served as a Contract and Industrial Labor Relations Specialist ensuring the payment of prevailing wages in HUD funded construction across the Midwest region.

Ms. Perez holds a BS in Human Services from Cornell University and an MS in Management from the Catholic University of America. She attended the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University as a Community Builder Fellow and completed an executive education program with the Brookings Institution focused on business and innovation. Most recently, she served as a volunteer with the Biden-Harris Transition's Appointments Team where she conducted interviews of candidates for senior positions in multiple federal agencies, including the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Agriculture, VA and the Social Security Administration. Ms. Perez speaks Spanish, French and Kreyol, and grew up in a Haitian and El Salvadoran household of immigrants in Miami, FL.

Jaime Pinkham

Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (OASA/CW)
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works

Jaime A. Pinkham was appointed to the position of Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works on April 19, 2021, and is also serving as the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

As the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, he establishes policy direction and supervises the Department of the Army functions relating to all aspect of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' Civil Works program. These responsibilities include programs for conservation and development of the nation's water and wetland resources, flood control, navigation and aquatic ecosystem restoration.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Pinkham served as the executive director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission in Portland, Oregon, since 2017. Prior to that position, he was the vice president of the Bush Foundation, a private foundation in St. Paul, Minnesota. He led the Foundation's Native nations program and worked with tribes across North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota as they redesigned their governing systems. He spent the previous two decades in the Pacific Northwest advocating for tribal sovereignty, self-determination and treaty rights.

He has been a member of and served on numerous non-profit organizations, including the Governing Council of the Wilderness Society, American Rivers Board of Directors, Native Arts and Culture Foundation, Board of Trustees at Northland College in Wisconsin, and the Advisory Council for the Udall Center's Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management

and Policy at the University of Arizona. He is chairman emeritus for the American Indian Science and Engineering Society and past president of the Intertribal Timber Council.
Mr. Pinkham received forestry degrees from Oregon State University (OSU) and Peninsula College. He is an OSU Alumni Fellow and also received an Outstanding Alumnus Award from OSU's College of Forestry. He is a recipient of national awards from the Wilderness Society, the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society, and the Intertribal Timber Council for his service to tribal communities.

He is a citizen of the Nez Perce Tribe. He is married and has two daughters and three grandchildren. He enjoys fishing, hunting, and hiking. When he times his trips just right back home to Nez Perce Country, he can be found sitting around the drum singing the old songs in the old way.

Shaun Sanchez

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Deputy Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System

Shaun Sanchez is deputy chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System (since 2015). He began working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1999. He has served in a variety of positions at 10 national wildlife refuge in eight states, including Alaska, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and Oklahoma. Before taking his current position, he was deputy chief for the Refuge System's Southeast Region and, more recently, chief of budget, performance and workforce at Refuge System headquarters.

Yasmeen Shaheen-McConnell

AmeriCorps
Senior Advisor for Strategic Partnership

In her role at AmeriCorps, Yasmeen Shaheen-McConnel builds partnerships inside the federal government, with Tribes and Tribal entities, the private and philanthropic communities, and on issues such as climate, infrastructure, workforce, and more. Before joining the agency in January 2021, she served as managing director of strategic partnerships at Service Year Alliance, where she led initiatives including the Serve America Together campaign, stakeholder engagement, and convenings for leaders inside and outside the national service network. Ms. Shaheen-McConnell helped start the Franklin Project at the Aspen Institute, where she designed and ran a fellowship program for rising leaders across the country. She was a business development consultant with News Deeply, a new media and technology startup, and managed programs and the Arab American Census Information Center at the Arab American Institute and Foundation.

Ms. Shaheen-McConnell is a proud AmeriCorps alumna, and served in 2008 with the Arab American Resource Corps in a community support and cultural resource position before becoming a supervisor for future members. She earned a bachelor's degree from George Washington University and a master's degree from Harvard Divinity School.

Nicole Silk

River Network
President

Nicole Silk oversees River Network's efforts to help people and organizations across the United States champion healthy rivers and clean water. Under her leadership, River Network has grown River Network's focus to include water security, including efforts in Colorado and the Colorado River Basin, as well as the key issues noted above and challenges at the intersection of water and equity, diversity and inclusion. Prior to her role at River Network, Nicole worked at The Nature Conservancy for 19 years, serving as Managing Director of the Global Freshwater Team. Nicole has also worked on law and policy aspects of conservation in the US and Costa Rica and as a professional river guide. She holds a JD from the University of California at Davis and a BA in Ecology and Economics from the University of California at Santa Cruz.

Mike Tupper

U.S. Geological Survey
Regional Director, USGS Northeast Region

As Regional Director for the U.S. Geological Survey Northeast Region, Michael (Mike) Tupper is located at USGS headquarters and leads 11 USGS science centers in the Mid-Atlantic and New England.

Mr. Tupper became the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Deputy Assistant Director for Resources and Planning in March 2015. He served on a 120-day detail as the Acting USGS Regional Director for the Northwest Region as part of the Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program. In a Federal career that has spanned three decades, Mr. Tupper started as a GS-2 on the fire crew in Las Vegas, Nevada, while going to school for geological engineering. He has held almost every position in the BLM's fire program including being a smokejumper in Fairbanks, Alaska, and Boise, Idaho. He finished his fire career as the Senior Fire Advisor in Washington, D.C. After serving in the role of Deputy Division Chief for Decision Support Planning and National Environmental Policy Act in the nation's capital, Mr. Tupper took on an assignment leading the BLM's second largest minerals program as Deputy State Director for Minerals in the New Mexico State Office and then as Deputy State Director for Land and Resources.

Tanya Trujillo

U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Tanya Trujillo is a water lawyer with more than 20 years of experience working on complex natural resources management issues and interstate and transboundary water agreements. She most recently worked as a project director with the Colorado River Sustainability Campaign. Before then, she served as the Executive Director of the Colorado River Board of California. She has served as Senior Counsel to the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and as Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at Interior. A native New Mexican, Ms. Trujillo attended Stanford University and the University of Iowa College of Law.

Christopher P. Weis, Ph.D

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)

Toxicology Liaison and Senior Advisor to NIEHS/NTP Director

Chris Weis, Ph.D., joined NIEHS in August 2010. He brings decades of practical experience working in the fields of rapid exposure and risk evaluation for environmental emergencies and environmental forensics. Dr. Weis' office is located on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Md.

As the NIEHS toxicology liaison, Dr. Weis serves as a senior advisor to NIEHS/NTP Director Rick Woychik, Ph.D. and also represents the institute and NTP on national and international committees, subcommittees, task forces, and ad hoc working groups. This allows Dr. Weis the opportunity to not only communicate the goals and priorities of the director to key officials at other Federal research, regulatory, and health agencies, but also to hear from them and others to help guide the development of the institute's programs and functions. Dr. Weis also serves as a liaison to external constituencies, stakeholders, and advocacy groups, as well as members of the NTP community.

As part of his responsibilities, Dr. Weis was recently named to represent NIEHS as a co-chair on the Toxics and Risks Subcommittee of the White House National Science and Technology Council Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability.
Prior to joining NIEHS in August 2010, Dr. Weis served as a senior toxicologist at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency National Enforcement Investigations Center (NEIC) in Denver. While at NEIC, he worked in criminal forensics and established a laboratory for trace analysis of biomolecular evidence. Dr. Weis served as adjoint faculty at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, and was a regular lecturer in risk communication at the Scripps Howard Institute in Boulder, Colo. Dr. Weis is well versed in a wide variety of environmental contaminants, including asbestos, lead, radon, and vermiculite insulation.

Dr. Weis completed his Ph.D. in medical physiology and toxicology at Michigan State University in 1987 and was awarded two NIH postdoctoral fellowship positions at the University of Virginia School of Medicine, Department of Physiology and Biophysics.

Andrew Wishnia

Department of Transportation (DOT)

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Climate Policy

Andrew Wishnia serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Climate Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy in the U.S. Department of Transportation. Mr. Wishnia previously served at the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, including as Senior Policy Advisor, and also served at the Federal Highway Administration as Special Assistant for Policy to the FHWA Administrator, and as a Senior Program Manager at the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Mr. Wishnia previously served in the U.S. House of Representatives as a legislative assistant to Congressman John Yarmuth, now Chairman of the U.S. House Committee on the Budget