

2025

Harmful Algal

Bloom Summit

Speaker Biographies



NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION



Kati Angarone

Chief Strategy Officer,
NJDEP

Kati advances strategic initiatives, including expanding public access to environmental information, increasing the visibility of DEP programs and services, cultivating external partnerships and coordinating strategic planning on cross-media issues. She also oversees the efforts of our Office of Legislative Affairs and our Office of Environmental and Public Health Analysis.

Kati has worked at DEP for more than 25 years. She previously served as Assistant Commissioner for Watershed and Land Management (WLM), overseeing the Division of Watershed Protection & Restoration, the Division of Land Resource Protection and the Division of Resilience, Engineering & Construction. As WLM's leader, she focused on advancing watershed initiatives, including integration of New Jersey-specific climate change science into watershed policy. The post followed a term as Associate Commissioner for Science & Policy, where she managed science, environmental health and economic analysis programs, while developing policy protective of New Jersey's environment and public health.



Jennifer Moriarty

Assistant
Commissioner,
Watershed & Land
Management, NJDEP

Jennifer joined DEP in 2021, as Director of the Division of Land Resource Protection, bringing a legal-minded approach to the Division's management and providing a framework for reasonable outcomes that recognize applicants' goals, while protecting wetlands, coastal resources, flood hazard areas, water quality, and public health and safety.

As Assistant Commissioner, Jennifer brings a wealth of experience and her collaborative leadership style to support the WLM team as it works to implement transformative reforms that better protect our communities, neighbors and land resources from the impacts of climate change and prioritize a watershed-based approach to land resource protection.

Jennifer holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware and a law degree from Temple University.



Chelsea Brook

**Executive Assistant,
Water Resources
Management, NJDEP**

Chelsea advises and assists Water Resource Management (WRM) Assistant Commissioner Patricia Gardner on matters of policy and operations. Specifically, she oversees and coordinates cross-program issues pertaining to WRM's four divisions: Division of Water Supply & Geoscience (DWSG), Division of Water Quality, Division of Water Monitoring, Standards, and Pesticide Control, and Division of Water Enforcement. She is also an essential member of the Department's Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Task Force, ensuring that New Jersey is prepared to address HAB related issues in drinking water. In this capacity, she has played a key role in the development and implementation of Department's HABs in drinking water planning and response program.

Chelsea started her NJDEP career in 2004, after working for several years in environmental consulting. She spent several years as an environmental specialist in the DWSG's Bureau of Water Allocation & Well Permitting. She later joined the Division's Director's office assisting with critical issues such as drought planning and emergency response before joining the Assistant Commissioner's office. Chelsea has a bachelor's degree in environmental health from Salisbury University and a master's degree in environmental science from Rutgers University.



Patricia Ingelido

**Director, Division of
Water Supply &
Geoscience
NJDEP**

Trish Ingelido is the Director of the Division of Water Supply and Geoscience at New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and has over 22 years of experience in water resource management. She began her career at NJDEP as a watershed manager in the Division of Watershed Management. She spent over 10 years working in the Division of Water Monitoring and Standards, with a primary focus in water quality modeling, assessment, and TMDL development.

Beginning in 2018 she transitioned to the Division of Water Supply and Geoscience first as the Assistant Director and then as Director. There she has led teams working to strengthen New Jersey's leadership in drinking water programs, including the development of the New Jersey Lead and Copper Rule, the NJ Water Supply Plan update and to address emerging concerns, such as cyanotoxins associated with harmful algal blooms and 1,4 Dioxane. She has a BS in Environmental Science from Rutgers University, an MS in Environmental Policy from New Jersey Institute of Technology and is a Certified Public Manager.



Victor Poretti

**Director, Division of
Water Monitoring,
Standards and
Pesticide Control,
NJDEP**

Vic is the Director of the Division of Water Monitoring, Standards, and Pesticide Control. The Division regulates pesticides and assesses New Jersey's waters to protect and manage public drinking water supplies, recreational uses, shellfish harvesting, and the health of aquatic organisms. To accomplish its mission of protecting public and ecological health, the Division collects and analyzes water quality data, coordinates the development of water quality standards and the restoration of impaired waters, ensures compliance with pesticide regulations, and provides public education and outreach.

Vic started his DEP career over 30 years ago in the Bureau of Freshwater and Biological Monitoring, advancing to Bureau Chief. As Bureau Chief he ensured the Bureau sampled and analyzed freshwater monitoring throughout the State to serve as a sound scientific foundation for water resource management and to meet federal Clean Water Act requirements. Vic was also instrumental in the creation and implementation of NJ's Cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Freshwater Response including strategy development, sampling and analysis, and communicating data and alerts to the public. As Division Director, Vic continues to serve on the Department's Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Task Force.



Gabe Mahon

**Manager, Bureau of
NJPDES Stormwater
Permitting, NJDEP**

Gabriel Mahon, P.E. graduated from Lafayette College in 2004 with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and he is currently a licensed professional engineer in both Pennsylvania and Delaware. He started with the Department in 2004 and for the first 12 years of his professional career worked in the NJDEP Division of Land Use Regulation as an environmental engineer responsible for reviewing the engineering aspects of applications under the Flood Hazard Area Control Act Rules, Coastal Zone Management Rules, Stormwater Management rules, and Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act Rules. He currently works in the Division of Watershed Protection and Restoration where he managed the Water Quality Management Planning program for 3 years and is currently responsible for managing the NJPDES Industrial Stormwater Permitting Program, the Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program, which includes the Stormwater Management rules (N.J.A.C. 7:8) and the NJPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permitting Program.



Emily Mayer, M.S.

Research Scientist,
Bureau of Freshwater
and Biological
Monitoring, NJDEP

Emily serves as a Research Scientist 3 at NJDEP, where she is responsible for the identification and enumeration of phytoplankton samples, algal toxin analysis and comprehensive data management. With over a decade of experience within the lake management sector, Emily specializes in lake macrophyte mapping, water quality analysis, and project management. Emily earned her B.S. degree in Biology from Centenary University. She continued her studies at University of Florida while working and earned her M.S. in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences in May of 2020. She serves on the board of directors as Editor for NEAPMS (Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society), is an aquatic technical advisor for the NJISST (NJ Invasive Species Strike Team) and is an active member of other related lake management societies and NJDEP workgroups.



Rob Newby, Ph.D.

Research Scientist,
Division of Science
and Research, NJDEP

Rob is a Research Microbiologist with the NJDEP's Division of Science and Research. Rob joined NJDEP in 2017 and has worked on several critical environmental microbiology projects for the State. Rob's primary research focus at NJDEP has been on characterizing and analyzing the dynamics and driving factors of freshwater cyanobacterial harmful algal blooms. Rob has served on many NJDEP led HAB expert panels, served as co-chair of the Management Practices section on the ITRC Harmful Cyanobacteria Bloom document, and serves as one of the state representatives to EPA Consortium for HABs. Rob maintains an active research interest in a number of areas related to environmental microbiology outside of HABs; including Legionella, the use of eDNA for invasive species detection and characterization; and other novel technologies and techniques for rapid detection.



Devangi Patel,
MPH, MCHES
Health Officer,
Montgomery
Township Health
Department

Devangi Patel is the Health Officer for the Montgomery Township Health Department in Skillman, NJ. She oversees the divisions of Environmental Health, Public Health Nursing, Health Education, Vital Statistics, and Public Health Planning. She brings expertise in strategic planning, national public health accreditation, emergency preparedness, modernizing public health systems, strengthening public health infrastructure, coalition building, and enhancing community health initiatives. Her prior experience includes serving as an Educator under the Susan G. Komen Grant with Somerset Medical Center, as a New Jersey Outreach and Quality Coordinator for Policy Studies, Inc. and Maximus, Inc., and as Enumerator for the U.S. Census Bureau. Devangi has led local public health programs and accreditation efforts for Montgomery Township and, through shared service agreements, with Princeton, West Windsor, Robbinsville, Hightstown, Branchburg, and the Boroughs of Hopewell, Pennington, and Rocky Hill.

Under her leadership, Montgomery Township Health Department developed one of New Jersey's most effective locally run COVID-19 responses, including robust outbreak management, high-volume mass vaccination clinics, and mass COVID-19 testing sites. The department's innovative surge nursing program was nationally recognized as a model for local emergency preparedness and rapid response staffing. In addition to her official duties, Devangi also carries an unofficial title of "Chief Public Health Multi-Crises Mitigator", providing emotional triage, real talk, and crisis therapy to fellow overworked public health officials across the state – fueled by caffeine, chaos, and the unshakable belief that public health will save the world – even if it's underfunded.

Devangi is a licensed Health Officer and a Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES). She is the Past President of the New Jersey Society for Public Health Education. She holds a Master of Public Health in Health Education and Behavioral Science from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

She actively serves on several public health leadership boards, including the Board of Directors for the New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials, as a Trustee for the New Jersey Public Health Association Collaborative Effort, and as President of both the Greater Somerset Public Health Partnership and the Somerset County Health Officers Association.



Wayne Carmichael
Professor, Wright
State University

Prof Carmichael has studied cyanobacteria and cyanotoxins (CyanoHABs) for over 50 years. During his career he has held visiting faculty appointments at academic institutions in Hawaii, Scotland, Norway, China, Portugal, Brazil, Japan, Ukraine and Australia. He has consulted on CyanoHABs and water resource management throughout the USA, and in Canada, Brazil, China, Australia, South Africa, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Columbia, Panama and more.

Prof Carmichael's fields of study have encompassed botany, zoology, biology, limnology, toxicology, pharmacology, and environmental science.

In 1980 Prof Carmichael founded the International Conference on Toxic Cyanobacteria (ICTC) which has been staged on a regular basis ever since. The first of the conferences was hosted at Wright State University, Dayton OH, and since then they have been staged at a variety of venues internationally. ICTC-13 will be held in Chania, Crete, May 4-8, 2025. (Ictc13.gr) His expertise has been valued and utilized by organizations as diverse as the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Prof. Carmichael had a role in the WHO's 1998-99 initiative to develop guidelines for cyanotoxins standards in drinking and recreational waters. The publication: "Toxic Cyanobacteria in Water: A guide to their public health consequences, monitoring and management. 1999." now serves as the basis for setting of guidelines for microcystins in water supplies worldwide.

Prof Carmichael served on the National Harmful Algae Bloom Committee of the USA for 6 years. Now retired, his projects focus on remediation and prevention of harmful cyanobacteria in municipal and recreational water supplies. This includes serving on national and international HAB committees, organization of and participation in workshops and symposia plus advising on HAB remediation policy, strategy and methods for local, state, national and international agencies and groups.



Dr. Andrea Egizi

One Health

Coordinator, NJDA

Andrea is a Research Scientist at the NJ Department of Agriculture and Coordinator of the NJ One Health Task Force. Prior to joining NJDA in November 2024, Andrea oversaw the Monmouth County Tick-Borne Disease Laboratory, located at the Rutgers University Center for Vector Biology. Andrea has a B.S. in Biology from The College of New Jersey, a Ph.D. in Ecology & Evolution from Rutgers University, and has co-authored more than 40 peer-reviewed papers on vector biology and ecology. Her interest in One Health was sparked by her involvement in the initial detection of exotic Asian long-horned ticks in New Jersey, a vector of both veterinary and medical importance. In her current role, Andrea seeks to facilitate cross-discipline communication and collaboration for the betterment of NJ environments, animals, and people.



Debra Millikin

Business

Administrator,

Jefferson Township

Debra Millikin, is currently the Township Business Administrator and Qualified Purchasing Agent for the Township of Jefferson. She has been with Jefferson for the past 6 years. She graduated from American University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and also obtained her Masters of Arts in Leadership and Public Administration from Centenary College. She worked for the Town of Newton as the Community Development Director and Deputy Town Manager for 18 years. She also worked for Wantage Township as the Administrator and Municipal Clerk for 2 ½ years before accepting the Jefferson position. In addition to her role as Business Administrator in a township with over 125 employees, she holds certifications as a Qualified Purchasing Agent and Registered Municipal Clerk through the State of New Jersey.



Susan Bristol

Municipal Policy

Specialist, The

Watershed Institute

Susan Bristol joined The Watershed Institute in 2023 where she serves as the Municipal Policy Specialist. Prior to that, she worked as a Professional Architect and Planner at her own practice, SPB Architecture LLC. Susan has worked at NJIT in Newark as an educator in the School of Architecture where she created the award-winning Garden State Studios and was recognized as a resilient design expert. Susan is passionate about the environment, is an avid reader and loves being on or in the water. She has a B.S. Arch. and an M. Arch degree from the University of Virginia with a thesis based in Paterson, NJ. In addition to her Architecture major, she studied Landscape & Urban Design. Susan is a NJ licensed Architect and Planner and a certified LEED AP in green design. She formerly served on her municipal council and planning board. When not at the Watershed, Susan can be found serving her municipality of Rocky Hill as a volunteer.



Shannon Brattebo

Senior Environmental
Engineer, Tetra Tech

Shannon Brattebo, PE, is a senior environmental engineer and limnologist at Tetra Tech, Inc. in Washington State. Shannon has been with Tetra Tech since 1999. Shannon's work has focused on lake and reservoir water quality, restoration, and management both in the Pacific Northwest and across the nation. Shannon has B.S. in Civil/Environmental Engineering from Seattle University and an M.S.C.E in Civil/Environmental Engineering from the University of Washington. Shannon has been a member of the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) since 2001 and is the current NALMS Treasurer. Shannon is also a member, a former board direction and past secretary of the Washington Lakes Protection Association (WALPA). Shannon is also a past Region 10 NALMS Director (2015 – 2018).



Pat Rose

Project Manager,
Princeton Hydro

Pat Rose joined Princeton Hydro in 2018 after receiving his M.S in Lake Management from SUNY Oneonta. Pat is a Project Manager and Limnologist within Princeton Hydro's Aquatics department. In this role, he oversees projects focused on lake and watershed management at all stages from planning to implementation. Pat also has extensive field and lab experience where he regularly conducts water quality monitoring and biological sampling and analysis. Much of his work is focused on the monitoring and management of freshwater harmful algal blooms. He enjoys the diversity of projects and professionals he has the opportunity to work with.



Marty Kane

Chair, Lake
Hopatacong
Foundation

Marty Kane retired from a government career in which he worked as a lawyer and manager. He was a founding board member and now serves as chair of the Lake Hopatcong Foundation. Marty is the long-time president of the Lake Hopatcong Historical Museum and enjoys writing about local history. He also serves as co-chair for the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed, chairs the Mountain Lakes Planning Board, and serves on the NJ Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs Council, Morris County Heritage Commission and the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust Fund Review Board.