



SNEP Network Advisory Committee Member Bios

LAUREN H. CARSON

RI STATE REPRESENTATIVE - RHODE ISLAND HOUSE DISTRICT 75 - NEWPORT

Lauren is serving her third term as State Representative for Newport, RI House District 75. Lauren has served on the RI House Oversight Committee, the House Municipal Government Committee and the House Small Business Committee. She has chaired a House Study Commission on Tourism and a RI House Study Commission on the Economic Impact of Flooding and Sea Rise. Her priority issues in the House include climate and environment, government transparency and civic participation.

Lauren has a Masters of Business Administration, University of Rhode Island, 1992, majoring in organizational management and strategic planning; and a Masters of Art in History, University of Rhode Island, 2008, majoring in Medieval and Renaissance History. She is also trained in leadership development, management and fundraising in non-profit organizations, and community participation in a wide variety of organizations.

Lauren has worked in both the public and non-profit community throughout her career.

She is currently employed by the Eastern RI Conservation District where she serves as a founding member of the RI Green Infrastructure Coalition. She has also been employed by Clean Water Action from 1985-1992 serving both as New Jersey State Director and National Program staff; and from 2011 - 2017 as Rhode Island Campaign Organizer. Her program work has focused in the areas of sustainability and waste management issues, climate change, sea rise and green infrastructure installations in urban environments. Lauren was self-employed from 1986 - 2010 in Newport, where she served as CEO in a Newport bed and breakfast and a RI data management company.

Lauren Carson is an Aquidneck Island resident since 1986.

SHERI CASEAU

WATER RESOURCE PLANNER, MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION

Sheri carries out the MVC's surface water monitoring program; she monitors innovative /alternative systems for nitrogen reduction, performs critical review of DRI projects and provides educational/technical support to town boards and citizen groups.

JOSEPH E. COSTA, PH.D.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BUZZARDS BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM, MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

Joe Costa is the longtime Executive Director of the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program (NEP), a unit of Massachusetts CZM, which provides funding and technical assistance to municipal government and non-

profits in their efforts to protect and restore water quality and living resources in Buzzards Bay and its surrounding watershed. His graduate, postdoctoral research, and professional work has focused on the impacts of coastal development, especially those impacts caused by nitrogen inputs, on water quality, eelgrass, and other benthic habitat. As director of the NEP, he was the lead in establishing the Baywatchers Program for the Buzzards Bay Coalition, constructing the Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Test Center, and in forming the Buzzards Bay Stormwater Collaborative.

**LISA COWAN, PLA, SITES AP
PRINCIPAL AND FOUNDER OF STUDIOVERDE**

Studioverde is a leading national landscape sustainability consulting firm. With qualifications in ecological design and landscape architecture, Lisa has successfully led teams on complex projects that resulted in collaborative design solutions that achieved multiple economic, environmental and social benefits.

Lisa was featured in Landscape Architecture Magazine for her pioneering work in the design of native ecosystems which provide environmental benefits to their communities.

Lisa is a nationally recognized expert in the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) Rating system, a land-based certification program that recognizes the critical importance of landscapes to provide ecosystem services and resiliency in the built environment. Lisa has led SITES certification studios at the University of Cincinnati, Colby College, the University of Southern Maine, and Unity College in addition to multiple non-profit groups. She serves on the Executive Committee for the Boston Society of Landscape Architects, is an officer in ASLA's Sustainable Design Professional Network, and an adjunct faculty to the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden.

**MARISA DESAUTEL
DESAUTEL LAW**

Attorney Marisa Desautel has been practicing law in Rhode Island and Massachusetts since 2006 and has 16 years of experience as an environmental and regulatory professional throughout New England. Marisa's practice focuses on state and federal environmental and utility/energy statutory and regulatory compliance, civil litigation, and municipal and regulatory zoning and permitting.

Marisa leads the Energy and Environmental Practice Group. She brings extensive experience, having served as Senior Legal Counsel to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management for over 8 years and has been legal counsel to the Rhode Island Energy Efficiency & Resource Management Council since 2015.

**DYLAN FERNANDES
STATE REPRESENTATIVE | BARNSTABLE, DUKES & NANTUCKET DISTRICT**

Dylan has served in the state legislature since 2017. In office he has focused on combating climate change, advancing affordable housing, addressing the opioid and heroin epidemic and promoting access to healthcare. Rep. Fernandes represents the most coastline of any legislator in the Massachusetts House.

Prior to his election, Rep. Fernandes worked in the Attorney General's Office fighting discrimination in the Civil Rights Division and later serving as digital director for the office. Rep. Fernandes got his start in politics as an organizer for Elizabeth Warren in 2012. He later served as Maura Healey's political director on her campaign for Attorney General.

Rep. Fernandes is a fourth generation resident of his district and is the son of two local small business owners.

MIKE GEREL

PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

Mike has been the Program Director of NBEP since February 2019. In this role he oversees all program operations and fosters partnerships, scientific inquiry, and community-driven actions that restore and protect the watersheds of the Narragansett Bay region.

Mike has more than twenty-five years' experience in water science and policy, collaborative governance, large landscape restoration, and conservation advocacy. Through scientist and management positions with nonprofits, government agencies, and consultants he has advanced the study and recovery of coastal watersheds across the U.S., including the iconic Chesapeake Bay, Columbia River, and Klamath River systems. Mike brings patience and empathy to his engagement with people on the frontline whose quality of life is tied to the land and water in their place.

Mike holds a Master's in Environmental Sciences from Johns Hopkins University and a Bachelor's in Biology from the University of Richmond. He is also a graduate of the Virginia Natural Resource Leadership Institute at the University of Virginia's Institute of Environmental Negotiation. He sits on multiple scientific advisory committees across New England.

A native of Syracuse, NY, with roots in New England, Mike is an avid outdoorsman and indoorsman, enjoying mountain biking, baseball, independent music, animal rescue, and every minute spent with his chocolate lab Moka.

KIMBERLY GROFF, PH.D.

KIMBERLY GROFF CONSULTING

Kimberly Groff has dedicated her 30 plus year career to advancing water quality at a project, state (Massachusetts) and regional (regional) scale. In her most recent role she served Director of the Watershed Planning Program, Division of Watershed Management with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) where she managed water policy development, Surface Water Quality Standards, ambient surface water monitoring, water quality assessment, the development of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) and the creation of watershed plans to restore and protect water quality. While with MassDEP she earned a reputation as a strategic thinker and agent of change for improved water quality.

Prior to joining MassDEP in 2009, Kimberly worked for 2 decades as a water resources engineer at AMEC Earth and Environmental, HydroAnalysis and ENSR (now AECOM), and provided assistance to a wide variety of clients and industries (e.g., energy, consumer products manufacturing, plastics, textile, pharmaceuticals, pulp and paper, transportation, academic institutions) as well as state and federal agencies.

Kimberly earned her Doctorate Degree from Georgia Institute of Technology School of Civil and Environmental Engineering. She resides in Marblehead, Massachusetts and is an avid sailor.

SHAUN O'ROURKE

DIRECTOR OF STORMWATER AND RESILIENCY, RHODE ISLAND INFRASTRUCTURE BANK

Shaun is Governor Gina Raimondo's Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) for the State of Rhode Island. As CRO, Shaun led the development of the state's first climate resilience action strategy, *Resilient Rhody*, and leads implementation efforts in collaboration with the Governor's Office and cabinet directors. Prior to joining RIB, Shaun served as the National Green Infrastructure Director at The Trust for Public Land and was Director of Sustainable Design and faculty member at the Boston Architectural College. He has also worked at AECOM in New York City as an Ecological Designer focusing on public sector infrastructure projects and firm-wide promotion of nature-based solutions. Shaun holds a Master of Landscape Architecture degree from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and a B.S from University of Vermont.

ERNIE PANCIERA

SUPERVISING ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST, RI DEM OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES

Ernie Panciera has 34 years of experience on:

- Planning, policy and regulation development for groundwater protection, onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS), freshwater wetlands, and stormwater;
- RI Nonpoint Source Pollution Coordinator:
 - Develop and implement RI's Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Plan;
 - Supervise NPS grant management program utilizing federal funds for local projects to protect and restore water resources and aquatic habitats;
 - Work with agency partners and municipalities on nonpoint pollution issues (e.g., agriculture impacts to water resources, local OWTS and stormwater management);
- Supervise watershed planning initiative at DEM;
- Supervise review of Water Supply System Management Plans and Local Comprehensive Plans for water resource impacts;
- Represent RI DEM on RI Rivers Council, RI Water Resources Board, and NRCS Technical Committee;
- Activities specific to Stormwater Management:
 - Adoption and implementation of the 2010 RI Stormwater Design and Installation Standards Manual and the 2018 Stormwater Rules;
 - Currently developing revised Stormwater Rules;
 - Permitting stormwater discharges to groundwater;
 - Oversee DEM Low Impact Development initiatives.

AMELIA ROSE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GROUNDWORK RI

Amelia has been working in the non-profit advocacy and community organizing sector since 2003. Since 2014, Amelia has been the Executive Director of Groundwork RI, a community-based organization dedicated to addressing the dual needs of environmental sustainability and economic opportunity in RI's lower-income urban communities. In addition to her Director duties, she coordinates Groundwork's adult job training program, which provides opportunities for community members who face barriers to employment to find jobs in the environmental services sector. She formerly worked at the Environmental Justice League of Rhode Island for 6 years where she oversaw programs and campaigns related to community involvement in brownfield cleanups, stormwater and climate change resiliency, healthy food

access, and many other issues. She has sat on the Providence Environmental Sustainability Task Force since 2012, helping create Providence's first Sustainability Action Plan. Originally from Northern Virginia, Amelia has also worked for the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Washington Interfaith Network in Washington, D.C., and Toxics Action Center in Boston.

DR. LAURA SCHIFMAN

STORMWATER COORDINATOR FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

As part of her role at MassDEP, Dr. Schifman offers technical assistance to Massachusetts town officials to comply with the EPA MS4 permit and participates in many regional initiatives focused on improving water quality and stormwater management. Dr. Schifman received her M.S. in Hydrology and Water Resources Management from SUNY ESF in 2010 and her Ph.D. in Environmental Science from the University of Rhode Island in 2014. As part of her doctoral and post-doctoral research Dr. Schifman developed and tested novel stormwater filtration materials for enhanced removal of stormwater pollutants and assessed the long-term performance of structural best management practices. From 2016 to 2018, Dr. Schifman received a National Research Council Fellowship from the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine to work with researchers at the U.S. EPA in Cincinnati, OH. During her tenure at EPA Dr. Schifman developed a research agenda that assessed the value of urban soils in the water cycle, particularly related to stormwater management and approaches to sustainable city planning scenarios. Dr. Schifman also works closely with early-career scientists around the globe as part of the community science communication blog, envirobites.org, which she co-founded in 2017. At envirobites.org, writers are trained to write compelling stories on cutting-edge scientific findings for general audiences and classrooms.

ELIZABETH SCOTT

ELIZABETH SCOTT CONSULTING

Elizabeth has over thirty years' experience in water quality assessment and planning, and water resources management in Rhode Island - serving as Deputy Chief in the Office of Water Resources where she managed the state's water quality restoration (TMDL) and shellfish water quality monitoring programs. Throughout her career, she has worked to advance stormwater management policies, practices and guidance including assistance to municipalities in stormwater management planning, and assessing the feasibility of stormwater utilities. Elizabeth received a BS in Natural Resources from Cornell University, and MA in Marine Affairs from the University of Rhode Island.

KRISTY SENATORI

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CAPE COD COMMISSION

Kristy Senatori leads the Cape Cod Commission in designing innovative land use policies, environmental and community resilience strategies, and comprehensive economic development initiatives through a multi-disciplinary approach. She promotes collaboration among communities through information and regionalization projects, and the implementation of decision support platforms designed to create efficiencies. Ms. Senatori has been a featured speaker at regional and national conferences. After graduating from law school, Ms. Senatori worked in the private sector for several years before joining the Commission in 2008 to serve as Chief Regulatory Officer and Deputy Director. She was named Executive Director in 2018.

MARTHA SHEILS

DIRECTOR, NEW ENGLAND ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE CENTER

New England Environmental Finance Center is one of 10 University-based centers nationally providing tools and assistance to help communities achieve their environmental and climate resiliency goals. Primary to that mission is to increase the capacity of municipal and regional entities to enact real and lasting change through education and outreach, stakeholder engagement, and the use of innovative financing methods that sustain economic development. Martha executes the long term vision of the Center and manages the development and implementation of program areas that focus on stormwater management and infrastructure financing, climate resiliency and adaptation, risk management, and source water protection. Prior to working at the Environmental Finance Center, she was a Project Manager at the Harvard Institute for International Development at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and held various other positions related to resource economics and policy. She holds a BA in Economics from Rutgers University, and a Master of Environmental Management from Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment.

KAREN SIMPSON

U.S. EPA REGION 1

Karen is currently a GS-12 Physical Scientist at US EPA, Region 1 (New England) in the Nonpoint Source and Watershed Unit of the Surface Water Branch, in the Water Division. Karen coordinates a multi-million-dollar geographic program focused on restoring coastal watersheds in southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Karen is the Program Officer for the SNEP Network program.

In her spare time, Karen is a Lifestyle Entrepreneur, Beach Volleyball Player and Volleyball Coach.

JOANNE THROWE

PRESIDENT, THROWE ENVIRONMENTAL

Joanne Throwe is the President of Throwe Environmental, LLC as well as Senior Fellow at the University of Maryland School of Public Policy's Center for Global Sustainability. Joanne's work focuses on helping governments and private organizations find innovative ways to finance infrastructure improvements, especially as it relates to climate change. Prior to that, Joanne was Deputy Secretary for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources from 2015 through 2019 where she served to protect, preserve, and restore Maryland's public lands and waterways. Before that, Joanne was Director of the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center serving the Mid-Atlantic region for ten years helping communities finance environmental improvements. She also spent several years working at the USDA Foreign Agriculture Service covering Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia. Joanne also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Solomon Islands. Joanne currently chairs US EPA's Environmental Financial Advisory Board that is responsible for providing innovative financing recommendations to the Administrator of US EPA. In addition, she serves as co-chair of the National Stormwater Finance Task Force for US EPA. Joanne resides in both Bristol, Rhode Island and Annapolis, Maryland. ,

ADAM TURNER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION

Adam is responsible for the overall management of the agency including the planning and regulatory activities, staff, finances, as well as relations with public entities, the media and the public.

MARK VAN NOPPEN

MANAGING DIRECTOR, THE ARMORY REVIVAL COMPANY

Mark Van Noppen began a career in real estate development in 1982, renovating significant Victorian homes in Providence, Rhode Island. He co-founded The Armory Revival Company in 1986. In his role as Vice President and Managing Director, Mr. Van Noppen is responsible for strategic planning, project conception and management, property management, community relations, and business and investor development. Mr. Van Noppen has had leadership roles on the boards of numerous civic and charitable organizations, including [West Broadway Neighborhood Association](#), [Housing Works RI](#), the Rhode Island Builder's Association and the [Providence Preservation Society](#), where he served as President from 2006-2008. He has served on a number of commissions and committees, including the Governor's Joint Committee on the Rehabilitation Building Code, the Governor's Housing Resource Commission, Mayor David M. Cicilline's Advisory Committee and Brown University's Civic Leadership Council.

A native of North Carolina, Mr. Van Noppen graduated from Brown University in 1981 with a degree in Anthropology. He studied photography at Rhode Island School of Design. He resides in the Armory District with his wife Julie and their three children.