

# LAND CONSERVATION & CLEAN WATER SUMMIT – 2009

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### **Bill Becker**

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
Executive Director  
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Mr. Becker has worked for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for 33 years. His career concentrated on research, planning and management development. He developed the State of Minnesota's first comprehensive natural resource management plan in 1979. From 1977 to 1987 he managed the socio-economic and natural resource information programs in MnDNR. His experience in data collection and analysis earned him the honor of advising President Reagan's Commission on American's Outdoors and The United States Forest Service in regards to collecting and analyzing socio-economic data. From 1987 to 1996 Mr. Becker assisted the MnDNR Commissioner's Office in legislative relations with the Minnesota Legislature. Under his leadership the MnDNR began holding fish and wildlife constituent meetings to improve understanding of and support for fish and wildlife legislative initiatives. These early meetings were the precursor of today's fish and wildlife roundtable.

In later years Mr. Becker led department changes including redesigning the department's fleet program, changing the support services of DNR into a fee for service entity, and redesigning the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Trails State Park reservation system. On December 1, 2008, he was assigned to staff the newly created Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. With the help of the Council and DNR Mr. Becker guided the Council through development of the first of 25 annual recommendations to the legislature for appropriation of the funds, and assisted the legislature in appropriating the funds.

Mr Becker earned a BS from the University of Missouri – Columbia, School of Business (1971) and received his MS in Forestry and Wildland Recreation (1976) from Utah State University.

### **Linda Bormann**

The Nature Conservancy  
Land Protection Specialist  
[lbormann@tnc.org](mailto:lbormann@tnc.org)

Linda Bormann is employed at The Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota Chapters of The Nature Conservancy where she works on land conservation transactions. The Nature Conservancy is an international nonprofit conservation organization whose mission is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. Linda works on land conservation at The Conservancy as a Land Protection Specialist. Prior to joining The Nature Conservancy in MN/ND/SD Linda served for 7 ½ years as Land Protection Specialist for the

Wisconsin Field office of the Conservancy in the Baraboo Hills, Mukwonago River Watershed and Door County. Linda is experienced with conservation easements as well as fee simple purchases. Prior to working in the conservation field she worked for 13 years as a Registered Dietitian. She holds a Master of Public Health Degree in Nutrition from UCLA and undergraduate degree in Foods and Nutrition from the College of St. Catherine.

### **Wiley Buck**

Green River Greening  
Restoration Ecologist  
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Wiley has a MS from the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology, University of Minnesota and works for Great River Greening, a premier non-profit community-based restoration organization in Minnesota. At Greening, he manages several large programs including Metro Conservation Corridors and the Franconia-Scandia St. Croix Corridor Landowner Incentive Program, in addition to managing dozens of individual restoration projects. He has written numerous management plans funded by a variety of sources for sites as varied as forested sites on the St. Croix River; grazed prairies in western Minnesota; radical oak forest, oak savanna, and prairie reconstructions; and county-wide program initiatives.

In addition to vegetation management, his management plans also address micro-habitat needs for wildlife including birds, state- and federal-listed species, Minnesota's Species of Greatest Conservation Need, and sees on the horizon the need to incorporate native pollinator conservation considerations into management plans. Wiley has built his expertise through experience with Greening, McHenry (Illinois) County Conservation District, TNC's Chicago Wilderness, and the MNDNR Scientific and Natural Areas Program.

### **John Chapman**

University of Minnesota  
Erosion& Stormwater Management Certification Program  
Director, Dept.  
Bioproducts & Biosystems Engineering  
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John Chapman is the Director of the Erosion and Stormwater Management Certification Program at the University of Minnesota Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering. John is a registered professional engineer in Minnesota and Colorado. He has worked for consulting firms in Colorado and Minnesota providing water resources, geotechnical engineering, and management services. Much of his experience has been in erosion, soil mechanics, landslides, natural hazard mitigation, and infrastructure development.

**Jean Coleman**

CR Planning, Inc.  
President

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Jean Coleman is an attorney and land use planner. As a consultant, Jean has twenty years of experience managing complex policy development and resource protection programs in Minnesota, the upper Midwest and northeast states. Most recently Jean coordinated the development of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan for the LCCMR. She is currently coordinating the Minnesota Water Sustainability Framework funded by the Legacy Amendment through the Clean Water Fund.

**Jad Daley**

The Trust for Public Land

Director, Climate Conservation Program; Co-chair, Forest-Climate Working Group

[jad.daley@tpl.org](mailto:jad.daley@tpl.org)

Jad Daley currently serves as the Director of the Trust for Public Land's Climate Conservation Program. In this capacity he serves as the Co-Chair of the Forest-Climate Working Group and has a particular focus on TPL's Climate Adaptation Initiative, which supports conservation and restoration of large climate-vulnerable landscapes across the nation.

Prior to his role at TPL, Jad was Campaign Director for the Northern Forest Alliance, a Vermont-based coalition of fifty conservation organizations who work to conserve the 26 million-acre Northern Forest that stretches from the Adirondack Mountains of New York to the Maine Woods. While with the Alliance, he simultaneously led the 22-state Eastern Forest Partnership, a joint federal advocacy effort among groups from Mississippi to Maine. In these roles, he authored two pieces of original federal legislation enacted as part of the 2008 Farm Bill.

**Brad Davis**

Scott County  
City Planner

[bdavis@co.scott.mn.us](mailto:bdavis@co.scott.mn.us)

Brad Davis, AICP, has been with Scott County for five years and manages the planning department in one of the fastest growing counties in the state. Brad has worked on land use planning and growth management issues for over a decade for cities, townships and counties in Montana, Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota. He recently led the County's 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update process and is now leading the plan implementation phase.

Brad has worked in both the public and private sectors providing planning services dealing with land use, transportation, land conservation, and parks. He began his planning career working for small communities in the rapidly growing Rocky Mountain region of western Montana. He spent five years working as a consultant planner with a firm in Madison, Wisconsin.

Brad has a B.A. in Journalism and Geography from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, and a M.A. in Rural, Town and Regional Planning from the University of Montana – Missoula.

**Melissa Driscoll**

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Land Protection Specialist, Scientific and Natural Area Program, Division of Ecological Resources

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Melissa Driscoll buys fee title and perpetual easement land for the state of Minnesota, working primarily with the Native Prairie Bank Easement program. Native Prairie Bank Easements allow landowners to use their prairie for some agricultural purposes and allow for public access for nature observation education and research, while protecting the prairie from plowing, tree planting, development, and other non-prairie-friendly uses. Melissa has been instrumental in promoting conservation easement stewardship at the DNR.

Melissa received her MS in Conservation Biology, with a minor in Sustainable Agriculture Systems from the University of Minnesota; her passion is the intersection of agriculture and ecology. Prior to working at the DNR she worked for the Land Stewardship Project, Natural Resources Conservation Service, North Country Cooperative Grocery, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, St. Paul Parks Department, US Forest Service, Gardens of Eagan, Philadelphia Community Farm, and Four Winds Farm. She is an avid gardener, soccer player, ornithologist, reader, home remodeler, and chef.

**Tom Duffus**

The Conservation Fund  
Upper Midwest Director

[tduffus@conservationfund.org](mailto:tduffus@conservationfund.org)

Tom Duffus is Upper Midwest Director for The Conservation Fund, a national non-profit land and water conservation organization, where he works on land conservation/transaction partnerships in the upper Mississippi River/Missouri River watershed and forestland conservation in the Upper Great Lakes. Tom has worked in land conservation for over 24 years including work in the eight upper Midwest states, Wyoming, Ontario and the Adirondacks. Tom is a commissioner on the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. He has extensive experience conserving forestland as well as farm, open space, biodiversity and wilderness lands and is an experienced conservation easement practitioner. Prior to coming to The Conservation Fund in 2005, Tom worked for The Nature Conservancy and previously the Adirondack Land Trust. He holds a Master of Forest Science degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

### **Jenna Fletcher**

Embrace Open Space – The Trust for Public Land  
Program Coordinator  
[Jenna.fletcher@tpl.org](mailto:Jenna.fletcher@tpl.org)

Jenna Fletcher is Program Coordinator for Embrace Open Space, a program housed at The Trust for Public Land, a national non-profit. Embrace Open Space is a collaborative of organizations with a shared goal of fostering conservation and stewardship of natural areas and parks in the eleven county Twin Cities area. Jenna has also worked for the State of Minnesota as a policy analyst on forestry issues, and researched urban smart growth practices for ICF Consulting, a national environmental public policy consulting firm. Jenna was a Fellow in the Donella Meadows Leadership Fellows Program at Sustainability Institute, where she received training in systems thinking, reflective conversation and visioning. Jenna has a Masters in Conservation Biology from the University of Minnesota.

### **Anne Gelbmann**

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
Principal Planner, Stormwater Program/Municipal Division  
[Anne.Gelbmann@state.mn.us](mailto:Anne.Gelbmann@state.mn.us)

Anne Gelbmann, Principal Planner at the MPCA. Anne has been working on low impact development for the past four years at the MPCA. She is a member of the Low Impact Development workgroup of the stormwater steering committee and team leader for the Green Stormwater Infrastructure team at the MPCA. On her free time, Anne enjoys travelling in Italy and other European countries.

### **Jim Hennessey**

Hanover Township  
Planning Commission  
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For the past three years, Jim has chaired Hanover's Planning Commission. In that role, he has aggressively pursued the goal of improving the quality of life for Hanover's residents. Last fall, he received special recognition from Governor Tim Pawlenty for his efforts and results.

Jim retired from Honeywell where he held several sales, marketing, and management positions. As Honeywell's Vice-President of Sales and Service, he led several global initiatives to improve Honeywell's service to all customer sets.

Jim and his wife, Linda, have lived in Hanover since 2000. They are both committed to protecting the natural beauty of the area.

### **Matt Holland**

Pheasants Forever  
Senior Field Coordinator  
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Matt is a native of Owatonna, MN and received a B.A. in Biology from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn., and an M.S. in Wildlife Science from South Dakota State

University in Brookings, SD. Matt has worked seasonally for the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, and has had several positions with Pheasants Forever since 1996. Matt enjoys hunting, fishing, birding, sports and family and resides in New London, Minn.

### **Mike Isensee**

Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District  
Urban Conservationist  
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Mike is an Urban Conservationist at Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District. In this capacity he provides assistance to the county, cities, landowners and engineers to plan, design and install integrated stormwater quality practices.

Mike also leads efforts to reduce surface water impacts during construction through the Urban Erosion and Sediment Control Program. As part of this program he reviews site plans, provides technical assistance to local municipalities, conducts construction site inspections, and coordinates enforcement activities.

Mike also serves as Vice President of the Minnesota Erosion Control Association and is a member of the Low Impact Development Workgroup and instructs courses for the University of Minnesota Erosion and Sediment Control Certification Program and the International Erosion Control Association.

### **Cheryl Kelley-Dobie**

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Senior Realty Specialist, DNR-Lands & Minerals  
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Cheryl is a Senior Realty Specialist with the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Lands and Minerals, where she works on land acquisition for both fee and conservation easement projects throughout the State of Minnesota. Cheryl has worked on land acquisition for the last 8 ½ years. Her work includes large coordinated projects with The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, the Blandin Foundation, Pheasants Forever and other conservation partners.

Prior to coming to the State of MN/DNR in 2001, Cheryl worked in the banking industry, primarily with mortgage loans, specializing in government lending, title work and problem solving. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance and Economics from Bemidji State University.

### **Mike Leedahl**

Avon Hills Initiative  
Board Member  
[myleedahl@msn.com](mailto:myleedahl@msn.com)

Mike has been a board member of the AHI for about three years, joining as a way to help preserve the local, rural landscape that makes up this part of Stearns County. Living in the Avon Hills has made him appreciate the quality of life in central Stearns County, so the AHI was a good fit. He also serves on the planning committee for the AHI Annual Conference. Mike has a Secondary Education degree in Biology

and Earth Science from St. Cloud State University, with emphasis in wildlife and the environment. He is a member of the St. John's Arboretum, a member of Avon Area Arts, and a Minnesota Master Naturalist. He and his wife love living on their five acres in the woods in the middle of the Avon Hills, but secretly would like to live in Grand Marais or Ely, MN. Pastimes include hunting, fishing, canoeing, hiking, nature photography, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, traditional winter camping, and occasionally guiding summer and winter trips into the BWCA.

### **Kurt Leuthold**

Barr Engineering  
Vice President/Principal  
[kleuthold@barr.com](mailto:kleuthold@barr.com)

Kurt graduated from Michigan Technological University in 1987 with a B.S. in Civil Engineering and an emphasis in Water Resources. For the past 22 years, he has been working for Barr Engineering Company. He has specialized in the areas of hydrology, hydraulics, water resources, and site development. In the last twelve years, his emphasis has been on sustainability and the design of alternative stormwater management, low impact development, and "green" building projects. He frequently uses this experience to teach workshops and give presentations about the latest in alternative stormwater management.

### **Bob McGillivray**

The Trust for Public Land  
Senior Project Manager, Minnesota State Office  
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Bob McGillivray is a conservation real estate specialist with The Trust for Public Land. Bob negotiates, finances, manages, builds public support for, and closes complex real estate transactions to protect critical natural areas. He has served on the Board of Directors for Minnesota Waters and the Rivers Council of Minnesota, the Executive Committee of the Habitat Corridors Partnership, and the Minnesota DNR Aquatic Management Area Planning Committee. Prior to joining TPL, Bob was a partner at the law firm of Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly with a broad commercial practice. He also served as a law clerk for the Honorable Edward J. Devitt, United States District Court Judge; a Special Assistant Attorney General with the Minnesota Attorney General's Office; a legal intern with the United Nations and the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York; and the President of the Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis. Bob graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Minnesota, received his law degree from New York University, and also studied at Stirling University in Scotland and the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. Bob also loves to fish and hunt.

### **Doug Mensing**

Applied Ecological Services  
Senior Ecologist  
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Doug Mensing has a BS in Environmental Science from Valparaiso University and an MS in Conservation Biology from the University of Minnesota. He has over 17 years of professional and research experience in the ecological and environmental fields, including applied expertise in: ecological inventory, assessment, restoration, monitoring, and management; conservation planning, design, and development; sustainability initiatives, multifunctional greenway corridor design; low impact development (LID); and alternative/ecological stormwater management techniques. Many of Doug's recent projects have focused on working with clients to design projects in a more ecologically sensitive fashion, conserving natural features and functions.

### **Clint Miller**

The Conservation Fund  
Upper Midwest Field Representative  
[cmiller@conservationfund.org](mailto:cmiller@conservationfund.org)

Clint Miller has been working in the conservation arena for more than 21 years from Alaska to Florida. He earned degrees in Wildlife Biology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Colorado State University. A former Wildlife Biologist, he has been working on land preservation projects for the past 12 years. He worked for the City of Boulder Open Space program in Colorado as a biologist and research program director. In addition, Clint ran a community-based conservation program for The Nature Conservancy in South Dakota and was the Southern Region Director for the Minnesota Land Trust. He has an extensive background in conservation easement negotiation, management and monitoring. He is currently the Upper Midwest Field Representative for The Conservation Fund and works out of his office in southeastern Minnesota.

With nearly 21 years of wildland and structural fire-fighting experience, Clint is currently an EMT and firefighter with the Pine Island Fire Department. He enjoys kayaking, fishing, hiking and traveling with his family.

### **Steve Morse**

Minnesota Environmental Partnership  
Director  
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Steve Morse is the current Executive Director of the Minnesota Environmental Partnership, a coalition of nonprofit conservation and environmental organizations that work to convert Minnesotans' deeply held values into action to achieve the highest quality natural environment.

Prior to joining MEP in 2006, Steve served as a Senior Fellow in the College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences, at the University of Minnesota. There he developed and ran the Green Lands, Blue Waters initiative, a

Mississippi basin wide, cross-disciplinary initiative to address the long term water quality impacts of agricultural practices in the basin.

Steve served four years as the Deputy Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, in Governor Ventura's administration.

Steve is also a former Minnesota State Senator, elected to the Senate four times, beginning in 1986. For most of his twelve years in the Senate, he served as Chair of the Senate Environment and Agriculture Budget Division and also served as chair of the Legislative Water Commission and the Legislative Commission on Minnesota's Resources.

Steve grew up along the Mississippi River and shares this life-long connection with his children by canoeing the river with them.

### **Michael Mucha**

Public Works, Olympia WA  
Director  
[mmucha@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:mmucha@ci.olympia.wa.us)

Michael has a passion for creating a sustainable future. He has over 20 years exercising leadership in city government, with appointments in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and currently in Washington State as the Director of Public Works for the City of Olympia. He also serves on the faculty of Evergreen State College and is the Chair of the American Public Works Associations new Center for Sustainability.

Michael received his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Wisconsin and his Master's in Public Administration from the University of Washington. He also completed Harvard's Senior Executives program. Michael is a registered professional engineer in three States.

### **Darby Nelson**

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
Secretary  
[dmlnelson@ties2.net](mailto:dmlnelson@ties2.net)

Darby Nelson has a Ph.D. in aquatic ecology from the U of MN. He taught biology and environmental science at Anoka-Ramsey Community College for 35 years before retiring. He served three terms in the State House. Currently he is a writer and environmental activist and serve as board president of Conservation Minnesota in addition to serving on the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

### **Ray Norrgard**

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Wetland Wildlife Program Leader  
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Ray Norrgard is the Wetland Wildlife Program Leader for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Ray is a 36 year veteran with wetland and waterfowl related work with experience in state, federal, and nongovernmental organizations. Ray was integral to the development of the Minnesota

Dept. of Natural Resources Long Range Duck Recovery Plan. In 2006 Ray received the Midwest Wildlife Professional of the Year Award from the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

### **Jane Norris**

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Coordinator, State Wildlife Action Plan  
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Ms. Norris has a B.S. in Wildlife Management from University of MN and a M.S. in Wildlife Ecology from University of Missouri. She worked as a nongame biologist for Indiana DNR for three years before returning to MNDNR where she worked as Federal Aid Coordinator and State Wildlife Grants Coordinator prior to her current position.

### **Peder Otterson**

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Division of Waters  
Shoreland Rules Update Project Manager  
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Peder Otterson began his work with DNR in 1978 as area hydrologist to Northeastern Minnesota where he gained field experience working with local governments on shoreland management and public waters management issues. He transferred to St. Paul to work on the implementation of the 1989 shoreland rules and has worked in a variety of areas and projects since then—most recently, as project manager of the Shoreland Rules Update Project that began in 2008 and is approaching completion. Information on the Update Project is available at <http://mndnr.gov/waters/shoreland.html>.

### **Sharon Pfeifer**

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Community Assistance Coordinator  
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Sharon is Community Assistance Manager for DNR's 23-county Central Region. She holds a doctorate in ecology, a masters degree in environmental policy, and is a two-time recipient of the American Association for the Advancement of Science Diplomacy Fellowship and 2005 Bush Foundation Leadership Fellow. The efforts of Sharon and her staff focus on assisting local governments in DNR's Central Region with the integration of natural resources information and green infrastructure into local plans and decisions in order to conserve or improve the condition of natural habitats and water quality.

### **Jane Prohaska**

Minnesota Land Trust  
Senior Advisor  
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Jane Prohaska is currently an independent conservation consultant while continuing to serve as Senior Advisor to the Minnesota Land Trust. She provides advice and support for

the Minnesota Land Trust and other nonprofit conservation organizations around the country.

Jane has recently stepped down as the President and Executive Director of the Minnesota Land Trust, where she was responsible for providing programmatic leadership and operational oversight for all of the Land Trust's programs for nine year.

Previously, Jane worked for The Nature Conservancy for almost 18 years, most recently as Vice President and Midwest Regional Director. Prior to that, she served as the Conservancy's Regional Counsel.

An attorney, Jane also worked in the Office of the Minnesota Attorney General for several years under Attorney General Warren Spannaus.

She has a law degree from the University of Minnesota where she graduated magna cum laude. She is also a cum laude graduate of Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, where she received an undergraduate degree in history.

### **Ed Quinn**

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Coordinator, Division of Parks and Trails Resources Management

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Ed has a BS in Fisheries & Wildlife from Michigan State University and an MS in Biological Sciences from the University of Minnesota. He has over 25 years of natural resource management experience, working as a park naturalist, wildlife biologist and natural areas manager in Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Vermont. Currently he oversees the natural/cultural resource management program for the MNDNR Division of Parks and Trails.

### **Anita Rasmussen**

City of Sartell  
Planning and Community Development Director

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Anita Rasmussen currently serves as the Planning and Community Development Director for the City of Sartell, administering the planning, zoning and economic development activities as well as overseeing the building and fire permitting activities of the city. Anita had previously served as a Planning Consultant with Dahlgren, Shardlow and Uban, City Planner for the City of Ramsey and Planning/GIS Coordinator for the City of Oakdale.

Anita holds a masters degree in Urban Planning from Minnesota State University-Mankato, as well as degrees in Political Science and Community Studies from St. Cloud State University. Anita Rasmussen is a member of the American Planning Association, Board Member on the Minnesota Chapter of the American Planning Association representing Central Minnesota, member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, Economic Development Association of Minnesota, Sensible Land Use Coalition, and the Urban Land Institute.

### **Janelle Riley**

Syvantis Technologies  
President

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Janelle Riley is co-owner and President of Syvantis Technologies, a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner specializing in technical infrastructure and accounting systems. Janelle leads Syvantis' Microsoft Dynamics practice and is responsible for all Syvantis financial and marketing operations. Janelle is also co-owner of On the Wing Investments, which operates Fairview Conservancy, an award-winning conservation design demonstration site in Baxter, Minnesota. She is an Adjunct Instructor in Accounting for the College of St. Scholastica. Janelle holds a B.A. in Mathematics from the University of Texas at Austin and a Masters in Professional Accounting with majors in Financial Statement Analysis and Taxation from the University of Texas at Austin. Janelle is an active member of numerous community organizations, and currently serves on the City of Baxter Industrial and Economic Development Commission and as Treasurer of the Board of the Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce.

### **Carissa Schively Slotterback**

University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute  
Professor, Urban and Regional Planning Program

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Carissa Schively Slotterback is an assistant professor of urban and regional planning in the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. Her research and teaching are focused on participation in environmental and land use planning. She is particularly interested in collaborative planning processes and the use of information in decision-making. She is currently serving as resident fellow in the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment.

Carissa holds a PhD in urban planning from Florida State University, is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, and has previous experience as a planning practitioner in the public and private sectors. She is a member of Executive Committee of the Urban Land Institute and Faculty Liaison to the Minnesota Chapter of the American Planning Association.

### **Rusty Schmidt**

Washington Conservation District  
Natural Resource Specialist

[rusty.schmidt@mnwcd.org](mailto:rusty.schmidt@mnwcd.org)

Rusty Schmidt is a Natural Resource Specialist with the Washington Conservation District in Washington County Minnesota. Prior to working at Washington Conservation District, he worked as a consultant assisting with rain garden and infiltration system projects across the country. Rusty has also co-authored several books, including "The Blue Thumb Guide to Raingardens" and "Plants for Stormwater Design."

## **Tom Schueler**

Chesapeake Stormwater Network  
[watershedguy@hotmail.com](mailto:watershedguy@hotmail.com)  
[www.chesapeakestormwater.net](http://www.chesapeakestormwater.net)

Tom has more than 25 years experience in practical aspects of stormwater practices to protect and restore urban watersheds. Tom founded the Center for Watershed Protection in 1992, and has launched the Chesapeake Stormwater Network in 2007 as a new organization whose mission is to improve on the ground implementation of more sustainable stormwater management and environmental site design practices in each of 1300 communities and seven states in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Tom has written or co-written more than a dozen local and state stormwater engineering design manuals, and developed or refined the first design specifications for bioretention, wet ponds, constructed wetlands, filtering systems, and dry swales. Tom has worked directly with EPA, states and local governments to help implement stormwater permits and programs.

## **Don Shelby**

WCCO-TV

Don Shelby, WCCO-TV anchor and reporter, joined the WCCO-TV staff in 1978. In 2005, Don was named Best TV Newscaster in City Pages' Best of the Twin Cities Readers' Poll and was inducted into the Minnesota Broadcasting Hall of Fame in October 2007. Don has won all five of the nation's top journalism awards, including three national Emmys, the Columbia DuPont Citation, the Scripps-Howard Award and the Society of Professional Journalists Distinguished Service Award. In 1997, Don was honored with a second Peabody Award, the broadcast equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize, for his ongoing work with the youth of Minnesota. Don's commitment to mentoring has energized the station and the community.

He has received several honors for his work in the community, including Minnesota Sportsman of the Year; Martin Luther King Humanitarian of the Year; the Great American Traditions Award by B'nai Brith; Minnesota Broadcaster of the Year; and the coveted Josten's Mr. Basketball ring, an honor rarely given to an adult.

Don is a rock and ice climber, canoeist, gardener and beekeeper, to name just a few hobbies. He is married and has three daughters who all share his passion for the outdoors.

## **Gordy Sifferath**

Lockheed Martin  
Senior Facilities Manager  
[gary.g.sifferath.jr@lmco.com](mailto:gary.g.sifferath.jr@lmco.com)

Gordy Sifferath works at Lockheed Martin Corporation as a Sr. Facilities Engineer. Since 1990, Gordy has worked in Facilities Engineering and has worked for ADC Telecommunications, Dunwoody College of Technology, and Thermo King where he has held titles of Industrial Engineer, Facilities Engineer and Facilities Manager. In his current role, Gordy

manages special projects and facility upgrades. Since 2006, Gordy and his facilities team have been working on a multi-year project to replace their aging parking lot infrastructure and update their campus landscape using a comprehensive sustainable approach.

## **Norman B. Senjem**

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
Mississippi River Basin Coordinator

Norman Senjem is Basin Planner for the Lower Mississippi basin at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). He is currently coordinating the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load study for Lake Pepin and the Mississippi River upstream. Previously within the MPCA he was basin planner for the Minnesota River Basin, and led the development of agency policy on point-nonpoint source pollutant trading. Before joining the MPCA, Mr. Senjem was on the editorial staff of several regional and national farm publications, including *The Farmer*, *Farm Industry News*, *Dairy*, and *USAgriculture*. He has written extensively on agricultural marketing, technology and environmental issues. Mr. Senjem has a B.Sc. degree in agricultural journalism from the University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota. He also has M. Sc. and Ph. D (all but dissertation) degrees in agricultural economics, specializing in resource economics, from the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada.

## **Al Singer**

Dakota County  
Land Conservation Manager  
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Al Singer has been involved in land conservation education, management and acquisition for over 30 years. He has been an Interpretive Naturalist and Program Manager at the Dodge Nature Center in West Paul, Environmental Program Manager and Planner for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Metro Greenways Coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and is currently the Land Conservation Manager for Dakota County. He has been involved with a wide variety of landowners, agencies and organizations to permanently protect thousands of acres throughout the metropolitan region with a market value of well over \$120 million.

## **Leslie Tannahill**

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Conservation Grant Program Manager  
[LSCPLGrants.DNR@state.mn.us](mailto:LSCPLGrants.DNR@state.mn.us)

Born and raised in Kansas City, MO, Leslie received a B.S. in environmental studies and biology from Macalaster College (St. Paul, MN) and has been with the Minnesota DNR since 1988. Her beginnings were with the Minnesota Conservation Corps, she spent 13 years as a trails and waterways technician, and began doing grant work with DNR wildlife in 2002. Her grant experience includes Heritage Enhancement

grants to local outdoors clubs, LCCMR Habitat Conservation Partnership grants, North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants, and DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife grants and agreements. Most recently, Leslie was tapped to be the lead for the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Partnership Legacy Grants Program.

### **Mark Ten Eyke**

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District  
Land Conservation Program Director  
[mtencyck@minnehahacreek.org](mailto:mtencyck@minnehahacreek.org)

Mark Ten Eyck is the Land Conservation Program Director for the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, which works with landowners to protect water quality and key conservation areas through easements, fee purchases and technical assistance. Prior to joining the District in 2007, he practiced environmental law and worked for the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy.

### **Susan Thornton**

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources  
Director  
[Susan.thornton@lccmr.leg.mn](mailto:Susan.thornton@lccmr.leg.mn)

Susan Thornton is the Director of the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). The LCCMR makes natural resource funding recommendations to the Minnesota legislature from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. She has been with the LCCMR and its predecessor, the LCMR, in various positions since 1990.

Susan has a B.A. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin – Madison and an M.S. in both Land Resources and Energy Analysis and Policy from the Gaylord Nelson Institute on Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Before moving to Minnesota, Susan was an Argonne National Research Laboratory graduate research fellow at the US Department of Energy and a congressional aide in the US House of Representatives focusing on Environment and Energy issues.

### **Tom Wesolowski**

City of Shoreview  
Assistant City Engineer  
[twesolowski@shoreviewmn.gov](mailto:twesolowski@shoreviewmn.gov)

Tom Wesolowski has been with the City of Shoreview for 3 years as the Assistant City Engineer. Prior to that he worked as a consultant for firms in Minnesota and North Dakota for 13 years.

### **Bruce Wilson**

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
[Bruce.Wilson@state.mn.us](mailto:Bruce.Wilson@state.mn.us)

Bruce Wilson has served on >50 watershed restoration and protection projects, several Superfund cleanups including litigation, contributed to the development of ecoregion-based lake nutrient standards and has helped establish river monitoring networks in the Upper Mississippi, Sauk River, Long Prairie River, Crow River, North Shore, Red River, and Rainy River basins. Of these, he has worked for Sauk River Watershed District and Stearns County on Sauk River issues since 1980. He is presently working with UM researchers to develop, for practitioners, stormwater BMP effectiveness assessment tools, trout stream thermal management techniques and satellite/plane-based remote sensing of Minnesota's changing landscape. He is past president of the North American Lake Management Society and recipient of its Secchi Disk Service Award. Over his 30 years with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, he has authored and coauthored numerous watershed studies and lake management publications.

### **Steve Woods**

Minnesota Board Soil & Water Resources  
Assistant Director  
[Steve.Woods@state.mn.us](mailto:Steve.Woods@state.mn.us)

An agricultural engineer by training and a civil engineer by licensing, and now he can't even find his calculator. Steve Woods left a large engineering consulting firm a decade ago to pursue a Masters Degree in Public Administration and see how the issues he worked on from the private sector side of the fence looked from the public side. He is one of two Assistant Directors at the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources and is responsible for the three dozen staff who work directly with local governments addressing their tough soil and water resource issues.

(BWSR's role is to translate what is generally going on into the implications for individual local governments. The 20-member Board is made up of Gubernatorial appointments representing counties, cities, townships, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Watershed Districts, citizens, four state agencies and the University of MN.)