

CAC Quarterly Meeting - February 2023

Speaker Biographies in Order of the Agenda

Isabel Hardesty

Executive Director, Shore Rivers

As Executive Director, Isabel leads ShoreRivers' work to protect and restore Eastern Shore waterways through science-based advocacy, restoration, and education. Isabel is a member of the Board of Directors for Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology and for the Gunston School in Centreville. Isabel was hired in 2011 by the Chester River Association, one of ShoreRivers' legacy organizations, where she served as the Policy Specialist for two years and then as the Chester Riverkeeper for four. In these positions she gained experience in local and state advocacy, local enforcement monitoring and compliance, water quality monitoring, and on-the-ground restoration. When ShoreRivers was created in 2018, Isabel served first as the Regional Director and then as the Deputy Director until becoming Executive Director in 2020.

Isabel received a Master of Environmental Management from Duke University, where she concentrated in coastal environmental management, and a B.S. from Bucknell University with a major in animal behavior. In 2011-2012 she completed Leading From Within, a leadership training course through the Institute for Conservation Leadership. Previously, Isabel worked for the Ocean Conservancy in Washington D.C. conducting research into the impacts of trash, eco-tourism, and renewable energies on ocean ecosystems.

Matt Pluta

Choptank Riverkeeper & Director of Riverkeeper Programs, Shore Rivers

As Choptank Riverkeeper and Director of Riverkeeper Programs, Matt is dedicated to safeguarding the long-term health of the river, guarding against illegal and harmful pollution, and building a stronger voice for the protection of the river's natural resources. Matt has a degree in biology and environmental studies from Penn State University and has an advanced degree in environmental policy. His professional experience includes water quality monitoring, environmental policy, community organizing, and advocacy. Matt transplanted to the Eastern Shore from the Great Lakes region, bringing with him his passion for clean water and outdoor recreation.

Kacey Wetzel

Vice President of Programs for Outreach and Education, Chesapeake Bay Trust

Kacey Wetzel joined the Chesapeake Bay Trust in 2007 and now leads the Trust's Capacity Building, Community Engagement, and Environmental Education programs. Kacey works with funding partners, non-profit organizations, and community leaders to identify and develop projects that improve both community and environmental well-being. A native of Baltimore, Maryland, Kacey graduated from Rollins College with a B.A. in Environmental Studies and holds an M.S. in Environmental Science and Policy from Johns Hopkins University, and a CPH in Social Marketing from the University of South Florida. Kacey has studied water and waste management in the Dominican Republic and environmental sustainability in Costa Rica. Prior to her work with the Chesapeake Bay Trust, she worked as an environmental scientist with SAV Engineers.

Jamie Baxter

Program Director, Chesapeake Bay Funders Network

Jamie serves as CBFN's Program Director, applying his unique blend of experience to assist members in the development of effective and practical solutions to the vexing challenges facing the regional conservation community. Before joining CBFN, Jamie held leadership positions with Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Cahaba River Society and Maryland Department of Natural Resources. His extensive experience leading development of youth, advocacy and public policy programs built a diverse skill set in effective non-profit management and a keen understanding of the natural, social and political systems key to the success of any conservation initiative. Most recently, as Program Director with the Chesapeake Bay Trust, Jamie facilitated efforts among federal, state and local education agencies, grantees and funders to implement education reform designed to graduate environmental literate

students and led CBFN's highly successful [6 year, \$4.8 Million] multi-faceted Capacity Building Initiative to help dozens of local watershed organizations increase their effectiveness to achieve clean water and healthy community goals. This work reflects Jamie's collaborative spirit and drive to engage the funding community to help craft strategies for community level impacts and systems level change.

Jamie is originally from the Philadelphia area, holds degrees in Economics and Environmental Science from Dickinson College in Pennsylvania and serves or has served on boards of numerous grassroots and regional non-profit organizations. He currently lives in Annapolis with his wife and two children who spend their free time on all outdoor pursuits, big and small.

Joe Toolan

Manager, Chesapeake Bay programs, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Joe Toolan (he/him) is Manager of Chesapeake Bay programs at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. He has experience managing grant programs focused on community stewardship and behavior change across jurisdictions, coordinating green workforce development programs, building capacity in and networks of nonprofit organizations, and leading Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice work. Joe has a bachelor's degree in Geographical Sciences with a concentration in Environment Systems and Natural Resource Management from the University of Maryland, and an Executive Certificate in Nonprofit Management from Georgetown University. Joe is also Chair of Annapolis Pride, Chair of the State of Maryland Commission on LGBTQ Affairs, and a Planning Committee Member for the Naturally Latinos Conference.

Marth Shimkin

Deputy Director, EPA Chesapeake Bay Program

Martha brings a diverse and varied background from over 25 years at the Environmental Protection Agency to the Chesapeake Bay Program. She has worked for the past three years in the Office of Water at EPA headquarters, serving as acting Deputy Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, and Office of Wastewater Management, as well as in the Office of Water Immediate Office where she led preparation for the Presidential transition in 2020 and served as acting Deputy Assistant Administrator during the transition. Martha has also served as acting Director, Land and Chemicals Division, in EPA's MidAtlantic Regional office (Region3) for 5 months in 2017-2018. Throughout her EPA career, Martha has created and managed many programs and policies, led regulatory development, and developed agency plans for implementing new laws.

Dave Goshorn

Senior Bay Restoration Coordinator, MD Department of Natural Resources

Dave Goshorn served as the Assistant Secretary for Aquatic Resources for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources since May 2013. He was responsible for the monitoring and assessment of the State's water and geological resources; the policy and management of the state's recreational and commercial fisheries; the restoration of the Chesapeake and Coastal bays; boating services; and the Department's Integrated Policy and Review Unit.

Goshorn has worked at the department since 1992, serving initially as a member of the Fisheries Service Striped Bass Project, and later as Chief of the Living Resource Assessment Program, where he was responsible for Submerged Aquatic Vegetation restoration, fish community assessments, Coastal Bays monitoring, and harmful algal bloom response. In 2003, Goshorn was named Director of the Department of Natural Resources Resource Assessment Service where he managed programs responsible for the monitoring and assessment of all state waters, the Maryland Geological Survey, and the Power Plant Assessment Program. From August 2007 through May 2013, Goshorn directed the agency's Office for a Sustainable Future, with responsibility for moving the department in particular and Maryland in general toward a sustainable future.

A Towson native, Goshorn received his Bachelors degree in biology from Bucknell University in 1984 and his Ph.D. in Marine Biology from the University of Delaware in 1989. He spent the next three years at the University of Georgia Marine Institute on Sapelo Island, Ga., as a post-doctoral faculty member conducting research on juvenile Flounder and Drum.