

# Restoring the New York - New Jersey Harbor Estuary 2016

June 8, 2016

Alexander Hamilton US Customs House  
One Bowling Green  
New York, NY

A map of the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary, showing the Hudson River, Harlem River, and East River. The map is overlaid on a blue background. The text 'the WATERS we SHARE' is written in white, bold, sans-serif font in the bottom right corner of the map area.

the  
**WATERS**  
we  
**SHARE**

# Thank you for joining us!

Today, the New York - New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program's Restoration Work Group celebrates the release of the Hudson-Raritan Estuary Comprehensive Restoration Plan! We reflect on what has been accomplished, explore recent research, and discuss future directions, and ask you to join us as we begin to develop key actions for the NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program for the next five years.

**Wifi:** [si-visitor](#) (open)

**Voting:** we will be using mentimeter throughout the day at [www.govote.at](http://www.govote.at) (Code 93 13 24)



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## Agenda

### 8:30 REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

### 9:00 WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Clay Hiles, Executive Director of the Hudson River Foundation

Colonel David A. Caldwell, Commander and District Engineer of the US Army Corps of Engineers

### 9:15 OVERVIEW OF THE DAY

#### **Overview and the Hudson-Raritan Estuary Restoration Feasibility Study**

Lisa Baron, Project Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers and Chair, Restoration Work Group of the NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program

#### **Informing our Priorities for the Next Five Years – Revising the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Action Agenda**

Robert Pirani, NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program Director, Hudson River Foundation

### 9:45 RESTORATION PROGRESS 2016: LEVERAGED SUCCESSES AND IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

- the NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program's Restoration Work Group will review recent progress towards goals and what has led to success and challenges to restoration implementation.

#### **Panelists:**

Carl Alderson, Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Habitat Restoration Coordinator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Lisa Baron, Project Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers

Debbie Mans, Executive Director, NY/NJ Baykeeper

Dan Miller, Restoration Coordinator, NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation's Hudson River Estuary Program

Dr. Andrew Peck, Freshwater Project Manager (Eastern New York), The Nature Conservancy

Susan Maresca, Marine Resources Program Manager, NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

#### **Moderator:**

Kate Boicourt, NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program Restoration Program Manager, Hudson River Foundation

### 10:45 BREAK

## **11:00 COASTAL HABITAT RESTORATION: RESEARCH AND EMERGING TECHNIQUES FOR THE NY-NJ HARBOR ESTUARY**

### **Oysters: what do we know now and where are we going?**

Jim Lodge, Senior Scientist, Hudson River Foundation

### **A current look at wetlands restoration strategies informed by past experience and recent assessment in New York City**

Marit Larson, Director of Wetland Restoration, New York City Dept. of Parks & Recreation Natural Resources Group

### **Wetlands as a strategy to improve water quality in Alley Creek**

John McLaughlin, Director of the Office of Ecological Services, NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection

### **Developing a protocol to assess the habitat quality of urban shorelines**

Dr. Robert Newton, Research Scientist, Columbia University

### **A rapid assessment protocol for ecological and structural elements of shorelines**

Dr. Jon Miller, Research Associate Professor, Stevens Institute of Technology

## **12:15 LUNCH**

## **1:15 BREAKOUT SESSION: DEFINING RESTORATION PRIORITIES FOR THE NY-NJ HARBOR & ESTUARY PROGRAM**

- as part of the NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program's preparation of its 2017-2022 Action Agenda, participants in the conference will be engaged in small group discussion about priority actions and goals as they relate to habitat restoration. The results of these conversations will be synthesized and considered as the Program defines its key actions for the near- and long-term.

## **2:15 BREAK**

## **2:25 POSSIBLE PRIORITIES AND NEXT STEPS 2017-2022**

Robert Pirani, NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program Director, Hudson River Foundation

## **2:35 CONNECTIVITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE: RESTORING CONNECTED HABITATS FOR A MORE RESILIENT FUTURE**

– panelists will explore perspectives on connectivity in the NY-NJ Harbor: how do we think about connectivity in an urban and suburban setting? And, given the current landscape, how can we increase connectivity for the benefit of human populations and ecosystems?

### **Panelists:**

Emily Maxwell, NYC Program Director, The Nature Conservancy

Marc Matsil, New York State Director, The Trust for Public Land

Nava Tabak, Conservation Scientist, Scenic Hudson

### **Moderator:**

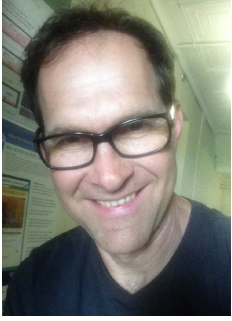
Adam Parris, Executive Director, Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay

## **3:30 CLOSING KEYNOTE: RESTORATION OF THE ESTUARY IN THE URBAN MOSAIC**

Dr. Steward A. Pickett, Distinguished Senior Scientist, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies

## **4:00 CLOSING REMARKS**

# Speakers



**Carl Alderson** is the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Habitat Restoration Coordinator for the NOAA Fisheries Restoration Center, stationed at the Howard Nat'l Marine Science Lab in Highlands, NJ. Carl provides management, restoration planning and technical design guidance to coastal habitat projects through NOAA's Damage Assessment Remedial and Restoration Program and Community-based Restoration Grants Program. Projects improve passage of migratory fish, and enhance shellfish and wetland habitats; often with the additional benefit of site remediation. Carl is a graduate of the Rutgers University, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences - Landscape Architecture Program.



**Lisa Baron** is a Project Manager with the US Army Corps of Engineers-NY District, Civil Works Branch. She has 25 years of experience which includes ecosystem restoration initiatives, dredged material management, environmental dredging, remedial investigations and ecological risk assessment. Lisa manages the NY District's large scale restoration program for the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary. Lisa has served as the Restoration Work Group Chair of the NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program since 2010, coordinating restoration throughout the region with Federal, state, local partners and NGOs. Lisa served as Chief of the Harbor Programs Branch (2011) responsible for the execution of the ecosystem restoration and harbor deepening program. Prior to joining the NY District, Lisa was a Project Manager with NJDOT's Office of Maritime Resources and the Division of Environmental Resources, private consulting and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (US DOE). Lisa earned an MS degree in Biology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a BS in Biology/Marine Biology from Bloomsburg University.



**Colonel David A. Caldwell** is the Commander and District Engineer of the NY District of the US Army Corps of Engineers. He is responsible for the Corps' water resource development, navigation, and regulatory activities in northeastern New Jersey, eastern and south-central New York State, including the New York/New Jersey Harbor and Long Island, as well as areas of Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. Col. Caldwell also oversees the design and construction at U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force installations in New Jersey, New York, and in Greenland. He also holds the title of Supervisor of New York/New Jersey Harbor.



**Kate Boicourt** is the Restoration Program Manager of the NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program at the Hudson River Foundation, where she focuses on habitat, public access, and climate change and coordinates the interagency Restoration Work Group for the Program. Prior to her work in the region, Kate led a team of experts to develop a Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the State of Maryland in partnership with the Maryland Commission on Climate Change, and has held multiple roles conducting research and synthesizing coastal science for public audiences. Kate holds a B.A. in Biology from Kenyon College and a Master of Environmental Science from the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies.



**Clay Hiles** has, since 1986, been the Executive Director of the Hudson River Foundation for Science and Environmental Research, which supports scientific and public policy research, environmental education and projects to enhance public access to the Hudson River. During that time the Foundation has steadily expanded its role as a principal funder of scientific research and a leader in the integration of science and the development of management policy concerning the River and its watershed. Since his graduation from Yale College and Columbia University School of Law, Clay's professional career and civic activities have been committed to the understanding and protection of the environment and the advancement of human and civil rights.



**Marit Larson** is NYC Parks Natural Resources Group's Director of Wetland Restoration. She is an environmental scientist with a background in hydrology and stream restoration. She holds master's degrees in environmental engineering from the University of Washington and in forestry and resources management from the University of California at Berkeley. She has over 17 years of experience managing stream and wetland restoration design, protection, and assessment projects in a number of regions, including New York City.



**Jim Lodge** is a Senior Scientist with the Hudson River Foundation for Science and Environmental Research. Mr. Lodge is a member of the NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program Restoration Working Group and is actively involved in restoration planning. Mr. Lodge and colleagues at Cornell University and the Hudson River Foundation led a team of scientists to develop Target Ecosystem Characteristics that are now the foundation of the HRE Comprehensive Ecosystem Restoration Plan. Mr. Lodge has led several oyster restoration projects including collaborations under the Oyster Restoration Research Project umbrella and a research pilot to help plan future oyster restoration near the Tappan Zee Bridge. Mr. Lodge served as the project coordinator for the Contaminant Assessment and Reduction Program from 2002-2008 and remains actively engaged in efforts to improve the understanding of contaminated sediments in the Harbor. Prior to joining the Foundation, Mr. Lodge worked for the US Army Corps of Engineers New York District, where he served as the lead project planner for the Sediment Decontamination and Contamination Reduction programs.



**Debbie Mans** has been Baykeeper and Executive Director since April, 2008. Prior to joining NY/NJ Baykeeper, Debbie was the Environmental and Energy Policy Advisor for Governor Jon S. Corzine. She was also appointed by Governor Corzine to the New Jersey State Planning Commission. Prior to working for the Governor, Debbie was the Policy Director at Baykeeper, a position she held from 2002 through 2006. Debbie is a graduate of The University of Michigan and holds a J.D. from Vermont Law School. Debbie is the Chair of the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters and on the Board of the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters Education Fund.



**Susan Maresca** is the Marine Resources Program Manager in the Region 2 office of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, working on everything from planning to implementation of coastal restoration projects. Susan holds a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Tufts University and a Master of Science in Marine Environmental Sciences from SUNY Stony Brook. Susan has been at NYSDEC for 20 years working on Marine Habitat issues. While at DEC, Susan's focus became assessing damages after oil spills and working to get post spill restoration and land preservation completed. Susan also worked for 10 years as the DEC representative to the Hudson River Foundation committee for the NYC Environmental Fund grant reviews.



**Marc Matsil** joined The Trust for Public Land as its New York State Director in 2011, returning to New York where he served as Chief of NYC Parks Natural Resources Group for 15 years. Marc has secured more than \$200 million to support habitat restoration and land acquisition programs in the NY/NJ Harbor. Marc also served in Assistant Commissioner and Senior Policy Advisor roles for the State of New Jersey. Prior to his return to NY, Marc was Director of the City & Borough of Juneau's (Alaska) Parks & Recreation Department. He began his career with the US National Park Service and has worked at Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, Aniakchak National Preserve, Noatak National Park, Mt. Rainier National Park, Mesa Verde and Gateway National Recreation Area. Following his BA at Columbia University, Marc was awarded a Nate Haseltine Science Fellow at Columbia Graduate School of Journalism. Marc has received awards from the Society for Ecological Restoration, Environmental Law Institute, US EPA, Chevron/Times-Mirror, and others.



**Emily Nobel Maxwell** is the inaugural Director of The Nature Conservancy's NYC Program. Prior to joining the Conservancy, Emily served as Associate Director of National Wildlife Federation's Northeast Regional Center, where she led school sustainability programs. She has also worked at Partnerships for Parks in New York City; served as adjunct faculty at Lesley University; and founded the More Gardens! Coalition, an organization dedicated to protecting and expanding community gardens. Emily is a former Doris Duke Conservation and Ford Fellow. She has a B.A. in Urban Studies from the New School for Social Research and an M.S. in Natural Resources Policy from the University of Michigan.



**John McLaughlin** is the Director of Office of Ecological Services with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection, the Bureau Director's senior advisor on citywide ecosystem restoration and research, green infrastructure implementation and monitoring, Jamaica Bay restoration, and environmental reviews of natural resources. John has been in the ecological restoration field for over 28-years, 24 of those years with NYCDEP. Managing a staff in the fields of botany, ecology, geology and marine biology, he prioritizes natural resources and the implementation of innovative ecological restorations and green infrastructure sustainability projects. John has developed, implemented, and collaborated on many large scale ecological designs for freshwater and tidal wetlands, coastal woodlands and grassland restorations, and directed the development of the Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan. He has also managed the piloting and evaluation of several aquatic studies and innovative nutrient removal strategies. John holds degrees in Ornamental Horticulture and in Biology.



**Dr. John K. Miller** is a Research Associate Professor of coastal and ocean engineering in the Department of Civil, Environmental, and Ocean Engineering at Stevens Institute of Technology. Dr. Miller received a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from Stevens in 1999 and a Masters and Ph.D. in Coastal Engineering from the University of Florida in 2001, and 2004 respectively. While at Florida, Dr. Miller received a Fulbright Post-doctoral Fellowship to study at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. Dr. Miller currently serves as the NJ Sea Grant Coastal Processes Specialist and the Assistant Director of the NJ Coastal Protection Technical Assistance Service. Dr. Miller is an integral member of the Hudson River Sustainable Shorelines Advisory Committee and was a coauthor of the NYC Green Infrastructure Research Plan, and the New Jersey Living Shorelines Engineering Guidelines.

**Dan Miller** is the Restoration Coordinator for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Hudson River Estuary Program. He works with state and federal agencies to identify historic changes to the Hudson River Estuary ecosystem, and determine the feasibility of restoring habitats that have been lost or degraded. Dan recently authored the Department of Environmental Conservation's Hudson River Habitat Restoration Plan for the river north of the Tappan Zee bridge to the Troy Dam. He also provides technical assistance to communities and non-governmental organizations seeking restore estuarine habitats including shorelines and shallows in the Hudson and fish passage in tributary streams. Dan has a Masters degree in biology from Florida Atlantic University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Biology from the University of New England.



**Dr. Robert (Bob) Newton** is an oceanographer at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory working on Arctic climate change, ventilation of the abyssal ocean, and integrating geochemical tracers into climate models. Bob directs Columbia's Secondary School Field Research Program, engaging NYC public school students and teachers in field or laboratory research projects. Through the SSFRP, Bob has

been involved in ecological research in the Piermont Marsh, near Lamont-Doherty, and in New York Harbor. Bob studied Mathematics at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, and earned his PhD at Columbia University in Earth and Environmental Science. In an earlier life, he designed and managed information technology infrastructure projects. Bob grew up in and recently returned to Manhattan, where he lives with his wife, Alice. Their twin daughters, Karen and Jackie, work in ethical philosophy and government policy, respectively.



**Adam Parris** is an interdisciplinary scientist who works on social and environmental change in US coastal zones. Adam currently serves as the Executive Director of the Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay (SRIJB). Prior to that, he served as the lead author on the report “Global Mean Sea Level Rise Scenarios for the US National Climate Assessment.” He also provided technical guidance and leadership on the Sea Level Rise Tool for Sandy Recovery, for which he and others received a Presidential Green.Gov award as Climate Champion. Mr. Parris also served as program manager for NOAA’s Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) program, internationally recognized for its design in helping decision makers manage weather and climate risks. Adam is a lead editor and an author on the book “Climate in Context” by Wiley & Sons. Adam holds a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Geology and English Literature from Bucknell University and a Master of Science in Geology from the University of Vermont.



**Robert Pirani** is the Program Director for the New YorkNew Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program at the Hudson River Foundation. HEP is a collaboration of government, scientists and the civic sector that helps protect and restore the harbor’s waters and habitat. It is one of 28 such programs around the country authorized under the Clean Water Act. Prior to joining the Foundation in 2014, Mr. Pirani was vice president for energy and environment at Regional Plan Association and executive director of the Governors Island Alliance. Mr. Pirani has received awards from the Environmental Advocates of New York, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and The New York Harbor School Foundation. Mr. Pirani has served as a founding board member of the fourstate Highlands Coalition, Governors Island Alliance and Brooklyn Greenway Initiative. Mr. Pirani holds a Masters Degree in Regional Planning from Cornell University and BA in Environmental Studies from Hampshire College.



**Dr. Andrew Peck** has served as the Freshwater Project Manager for The Nature Conservancy’s Eastern New York Program since 2011. Although he no longer studies freshwater mussels, in his current role Andy has been orchestrating a public-private partnership to develop a resilience and restoration plan for the Mid-Hudson River Estuary (TZB to Troy Dam at Albany) with a wide range of partners. Specifically, he has been managing the development of an ecological assessment of aquatic habitats and will be managing the development of Target Ecosystem Characteristics for the estuary.



**Dr. Steward Pickett**, a Distinguished Senior Scientist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, in Millbrook, New York, is an expert in the ecology of plants, landscapes, and urban systems. He received the PhD from the University of Illinois in 1977. He Co-Directs the Baltimore Ecosystem Study, Long-Term Ecological Research project. His research focuses on the origin and consequences of ecological heterogeneity and the temporal dynamics of system change. He has pursued these interests in urban areas, the old-growth deciduous forests and post-agricultural fields of the Eastern U.S., and the riparian woodlands and savannas of Kruger National Park, South Africa. He has begun collaborating with colleagues on urban regional dynamics in China. He has produced books on ecological heterogeneity,

humans as components of ecosystems, ecological conservation, the linkage of ecology and urban design, philosophy of ecology, and ecological ethics. He has served as President of the Ecological Society of America, and on the Board of the American Institute of Biological Sciences.



**Nava Tabak**, MS, has worked to conserve natural resources in the Hudson Valley since 2006. As Scenic Hudson's Conservation Scientist she works to protect and restore the diversity and connectivity of the valley's biological communities and ecosystems, and leads climate change resilience and adaptation initiatives. Nava conducted the first comprehensive effort to model the projected response of the Hudson's tidal wetlands to climate change-driven sea level rise, and developed a framework of conservation, restoration, and policy strategies to adapt this resource to the forecast changes. Nava also works with Hudson River waterfront communities to promote resilience to sea level rise and flooding.

## Facilitators

**Lauren Alleman**, The Nature Conservancy

**Sarah Charlop-Powers**, Natural Areas Conservancy

**Meredith Comi**, NY/NJ Baykeeper

**Sean Dixon**, Riverkeeper

**Jessica Fain**, Science & Resiliency Institute at Jamaica Bay

**Helen Forgione**, Natural Areas Conservancy

**Ariane Giudicelli**, NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program, Hudson River Foundation

**Elizabeth Jordan**, New York City Dept. of Parks & Recreation

**Marit Larson**, New York City Dept. of Parks & Recreation

**Sarah Lerman-Sinkoff**, NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program, Hudson River Foundation

**Debbie Mans**, NY/NJ Baykeeper

**Katie Mosher-Smith**, New York Harbor Foundation

**Maia Murphy**, Wildlife Conservation Society

**Don Riepe**, American Littoral Society

**Lucy Robson**, New Yorkers for Parks

**Ken Scarlatelli**, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

**Dennis Suszkowski**, Hudson River Foundation

**Shino Tanikawa**, New York Soil & Water Conservation Districts, S.W.I.M Coalition

**Dart Westphal**, Bronx Council for Environmental Quality

# Thank you!



Download the Comprehensive  
Restoration Plan and materials at  
[www.watersweshare.org](http://www.watersweshare.org)



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