

Building Capacity in Illinois Watersheds
Friday, October 10th
Presenter Biographies

Jeff Boeckler is a Watershed Planner with the IDNR out of Springfield. He works on planning and implementation projects in rural and urban areas of the state, providing technical support to local watershed groups. Jeff is involved in data collection and analysis, project identification and design, monitoring and grant writing. Recent research, planning, and implementation projects include the La Moine River Watershed, Big Bureau Creek Watershed, and Upper Lake Michigan Watershed.

Glynnis Collins is the Executive Director of Prairie Rivers Network, Illinois' statewide river conservation organization, headquartered in Champaign, Illinois. Part of Prairie Rivers' mission is to help individuals and watershed groups become effective river conservation leaders by providing information, sound science, and organizing assistance. She holds a Master's Degree in Biology from the University of Southern California. Before joining Prairie Rivers, Collins worked on the staff of California's water pollution control agency.

Thomas E. Davenport has worked with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency since 1984 where he is currently the Agricultural Advisor and National Nonpoint Source Expert. Tom provides technical and program assistance to the watershed, urban storm water, wetlands, lakes, TMDL and NPS programs nationally, and administers the Section 319 national Monitoring Program. He also serves on various national and international workgroups related to nonpoint source pollution and watershed management and has authored and coauthored numerous publications.

Kim Erndt is in her fifth year at Prairie Rivers Network and currently manages their Habitat Conservation Program. Her previous work experiences include living (on a barge) and working as a biologist and teacher on the Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Potomac, and Anacostia Rivers. She also has experience in river bottom habitat assessment and restoration, teaching, and watershed outreach and planning. Kim holds a Master's Degree in Biology from the University of Missouri Central.

Shelley Finfrock is the District Manager for the DeWitt County Soil & Water Conservation District and has been with the district for 22 years. She is a CPESC, (Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control), and loves to practice what she preaches. She also farms with her husband, Marvin on a grain farm. Land stewardship is something she holds very dear and she loves the jobs that she has which help protect our precious natural resources.

Dave Kamps is a Territory Manager with Hach Environmental, a unit of Hach Company. Hach Environmental manufactures the Hydrolab water quality and OTT water level and discharge instrumentation. Prior to joining Hach, Dave worked as a limnologist and managed the Ambient Monitoring Unit of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. During that time, Dave also served as a visiting professor in Mercer University's Prison Program. Dave holds graduate degrees in Zoology from Arizona State University and The University of Tennessee.

Ms. Charlie MacPherson has exceeded the average life expectancy at a consulting firm by recently celebrating her 22nd year at Tetra Tech, Inc. She has worked with dozens of organizations ranging from her son's 5th grade science class to the Turtle Mountain Band of the Chippewa Indians to develop and effectively communicate environmental solutions to our every day actions. For the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency she co-authored the *Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect our Waters* and can recite the 9 elements for developing effective watershed plans backwards and forwards.

Stephen McCracken is a graduate of Queens University Belfast and the University of London and holds Masters Degrees in both environmental science and environmental economics. He has 12 years experience in project management and environmental policy development gained working in North America, Europe, and Africa. He is currently Director of Watershed Protection for the Conservation Foundation in Naperville Illinois where most of his time is invested in project management and coordination for the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup (DRSCW). He is also an appointed member of the DuPage County Environmental Commission. He lives in Willow Springs Illinois with his wife and two children.

Linda Prokopy is an Assistant Professor of Natural Resources Planning at Purdue University. She is an expert in the social dimensions of watershed management and is currently working with the La Moine River Ecosystem Partnership in Illinois to test the use of social information to improve outreach and education efforts. She co-leads a regional team that is developing and piloting a social indicators framework for EPA region 5. She has a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Policy from the University of Michigan and a Masters and a Ph.D. in Environmental Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dennis Ross has been in the drinking water industry for 32 years, is currently the General manager for the Otter Lake Water Commission located 30 miles south of Springfield, IL. Over the past 11 years with the Commission, Dennis has overseen several grant projects on Otter Lake and within its watershed. Dennis has served on the Illinois Lake Management Association board for the past 7 years and is currently the President. Dennis also serves as a Trustee for the Illinois Section American Water Works Association.

Doug Scott was appointed Director of the Illinois EPA effective July 1, 2005 by Governor Rod Blagojevich. Prior to his work at Illinois EPA Mr. Scott served as Mayor of Rockford from 2001-2005, he served as 67th House District State Representative from 1995-2001, and as City Attorney and Assistant City Attorney for Rockford from 1985-1995. Director Scott received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Tulsa and his JD cum laude from Marquette University. Mr. Scott has memberships with: Illinois and Wisconsin State Bar Associations, Illinois Recycling Association, League of Women Voters, Rockford Area Chamber of Commerce, Rockford Area Economic Development Council, Illinois Issue and Illinois Coalition.

Randy Stowe is an environmental planner with 22 years of experience of planning, designing, and constructing water quality Best Management Practices across the eastern United States. Randy is the principal author of the newly updated Nippersink Creek Watershed Plan, and is the part-time lake manager of Wonder Lake, an 830 acre private impoundment lake in the middle of the Nippersink Creek watershed.

Amy Burns Walkenbach has been with Illinois EPA since 1987, starting with the Ecotoxicology Bioassay Laboratory. Since 1989 she has been with the Bureau of Water, previously in the position of the Statewide Volunteer Lake Monitoring Coordinator and Lakes Unit Manager. Amy has been the Manager of the Nonpoint Source Unit since 2002. She has a BS and MS from Eastern Illinois University in Botany.

Marcia Willhite became Chief of the Bureau of Water, Illinois EPA in May 2001. In this capacity she oversees water pollution control, drinking water, groundwater, watershed management and state revolving fund programs for the State. Ms. Willhite is active in the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators (ASIWPCA) and is currently serving as its immediate past President. Prior to coming to Illinois, Ms. Willhite worked for 13 years in air quality including program management at the state level in Texas and at the local level in Lincoln, Nebraska. Ms. Willhite has a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Biology from Eastern Kentucky University and Master of Science in Toxicology from the University of Kent.

