



**EBC Rhode Island Chapter and RISEP Program
Resilient Rhode Island**

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Adler Pollock & Sheehan, P.C.
Providence, Rhode Island

AGENDA

- 9:00 a.m. **Welcome – Robert Atwood, Chair, EBC Rhode Island Chapter**
- Introduction – Kelly Knee, Program Chair & Moderator**
 Director of Coastal Hazard Services, RPS ASA
- 9:15 a.m. **Rhode Island Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4)**
- Janet Coit, Director, Department of Environmental Management
State of Rhode Island
- 9:30 a.m. **Overview of Recent BeachSAMP Accomplishments**
- Grover Fugate, Executive Director, Coastal Resources Management Council
State of Rhode Island
- 10:15 a.m. **StormTools – Completed Initiatives and Next Steps**
- Malcolm Spaulding – Professor Emeritus, University of Rhode Island
- 10:45 a.m. **Networking Break**
- 11:00 a.m. **Impacts of Climate Change on Rhode Island’s Transportation Assets**
- Chris Witt, Principal Planner, Rhode Island Division of Planning
 - Kirsten Bryan, Principal Planner, Rhode Island Division of Planning
- 11:30 a.m. **Panel Discussion**
Panel Moderator: **Kelly Knee, RPS ASA**
Panel Members:
- Grover Frugate, CRMC
 - Malcolm Spaulding, URI
 - Chris Witt, RI Division of Planning
 - Kirsten Bryan, RI Division of Planning
 - Jessica Stimson, RI Emergency Management Agency
- 12:00 a.m. **Adjourn**

PROGRAM CHAIR

Kelly Knee, Director of Coastal Hazard Services
RPS ASA
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Ms. Knee is a water resources engineer and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) specialist with RPS ASA. Since joining RPS ASA in 2004, she has conducted sea level rise and storm surge impact assessments for many locations around the world to support both education initiatives and engineering analyses. Her interactive, 3-D simulations of sea level rise are currently on display at the Wood's Hole Oceanographic Institute, SciWorks North Carolina, and the See Science Center in New Hampshire. Her 3D visualization of inundation at critical facilities in Hull, MA helped gain support for an increase in freeboard requirements. Ms. Knee has performed a series of coastal risk assessments for coastal industrial facilities and is currently in the process of evaluating the potential benefits of using natural systems to mitigate storm surge impacts. Prior to joining RPS ASA in 2004, she conducted an economic assessment of the impacts of sea level rise and storm surge flooding in metro Boston and used a Fulbright Fellowship to study the impacts of sea level rise and storm surge flooding in the country of Mauritius.

SPEAKERS

Kirsten Bryan, Principal Planner
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Kirsten Bryan joins Rhode Island Statewide Planning as a Principal Planner in the Planning information Center. Ms. Bryan graduated with an MS in Sustainability Science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst with a regional planning and urban sustainability concentration. Prior to joining RI Statewide Planning, Ms. Bryan worked as a Planning Consultant for the City of Woonsocket, Rhode Island.

Janet Coit, Director
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
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Department of Environmental Management Director Janet L. Coit has worked for over 20 years on environmental matters. Before coming to the Department of Environmental Management, she worked for 10 years at The Nature Conservancy, one of the world's leading environmental nonprofits. She most recently served as that organization's Rhode Island state director, where she oversaw some of Rhode Island's largest land conservation projects. Prior to joining The Nature Conservancy, she was counsel and environmental coordinator in the Providence office of the late Senator John Chafee and subsequently, then-Senator Lincoln Chafee.

A magna cum laude graduate of Dartmouth College, Director Coit holds a J.D. from Stanford Law School, where she was president of the Environmental Law Society and a member of the Environmental Law Journal.

Grover Fugate, Executive Director
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Grover Fugate is Executive Director of the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC). In his role of nearly 28 years, Fugate has been responsible for overseeing the development of all policies and programs for the state's coastal program. He currently is the project manager the Council's new Shoreline Change Special Area Management Plan(SAMP) which is a forward looking plan at how climate change is impacting Rhode Islands shoreline and developing appropriate responses to this threat and protecting the state's coastal infrastructure. He served as project manager for the Rhode Island Ocean Special Area Management Plan, the CRMC's seventh such regulatory and planning programs. The Ocean SAMP provides for the management of a variety of existing and new uses in state and federal ocean waters, focusing in on providing guidance for the development of offshore renewable energy resources and has been cited by NOAA as the national model for Marine Spatial Planning.

Due to his leadership with the Ocean SAMP project and other coastal planning efforts, Fugate has earned several significant awards, including the prestigious 2010 Susan Snow-Cotter Award for Excellence in Ocean and Coastal Resource Management from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). He is also the recipient of the 2010 Regional Sea Grant Outstanding Outreach Award, the 2008 Coastal America Award for Habitat Restoration, and the 2008 Rhode Island Sea Grant Lifetime Achievement Award.

In addition to his duties as Executive Director, he also serves as the state Co-Lead to the Ocean Planning initiative for the Northeast Regional Ocean Council and is also the state Co-Lead for the Regional Planning Body established under President Obama's Executive Order on the National Ocean Policy. Fugate is the author of academic journal articles on coastal and natural resources management issues and is adjunct faculty at the University of Rhode Island in the Marine Affairs program. He is also a guest lecturer at Roger Williams University Law School on Coastal and Marine Law.

Prior to joining the CRMC, Fugate served as Director of Shore Zone Management with the Department of Development, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, working on planning for the Province's offshore oil development. During his time there, Mr. Fugate developed the Environmental Protection Process for major onshore projects related to offshore development and was also a lecturer at the Department of Part-time Studies and Extension at Memorial University. Before this, he served in other key natural resources management positions in Newfoundland and Labrador. He holds an MBA from Memorial University with a program specialization in resource policy analysis in 1984, and graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1976, with a degree in Natural Resource Management. He also completed a certificate program in Public Administration from Memorial University.

Dr. Malcolm L. Spaulding, Professor Emeritus Ocean Engineering
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Dr. Spaulding is Professor Emeritus Ocean Engineering University of RI and served on the faculty for 39 yrs. His area of research is in numerical modeling of circulation and pollutant transport. He served as the senior advisor to the RI Ocean Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) program and currently serves in a similar role for the RI Beach SAMP. He was founding President, Northeast Regional Association for Coastal Ocean Observing (NERACOOS), one of the Integrated Ocean Observing Systems (IOOS) Regional

Associations and served in that role from 2006 to 2014. NERACOOS operates the largest network of coastal observation buoys in the NE and supports the state of the art Northeast Coastal Ocean Forecasting System (NECOFS) for NE coastal waters. NECOFS has recently been extended to include the capability to perform high resolution, real time simulations for storm inundation, with waves, for selected areas identified by NOAA National Weather Service's (NWS) local forecasting offices. Dr Spaulding performed a review of the 2013 Flood Insurance Studies (FIS) for Washington County for the RI Coastal Resources Management Council and is currently redoing the flood insurance rate maps for the county. He is currently leading a national initiative called STORMTOOLS to develop a down scale modeling capability to allow coastal professionals and managers to perform very high resolution, storm surge simulations, including the effects of waves, sea level, coastal erosion, and proposed mitigation measures. The cloud based computational approach will allow the user to simulate selected events, and to perform real time forecasting and stochastic/probabilistic simulations. The system will include fully integrated wind, wave, and circulation models. To date STORMTOOL products include statewide flooding maps for 25, 50 and 100 yr return periods, with sea level rise; water levels and wave heights for varying return period maps to support engineering design; and an artificial neural network based storm surge forecasting system. The development of Coastal Environmental Risk Index for the state is currently in progress as is a real time prediction system for storm surge for prediction for southern RI coastal waters and Narragansett Bay.

Jessica Stimson, State Hazard Mitigation Officer
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Jessica Stimson is the Rhode Island State Hazard Mitigation with the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA). She is a Certified Floodplain Manager with experience in floodplain management, grants administration, hazard mitigation planning and project implementation having worked closely with Local, State and Federal level officials. Her work has focused on implementing the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs and the Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) program for the State of Rhode Island. She currently serves as Chair of the Rhode Island Flood Mitigation Association (RIFMA). Prior to her position with RIEMA, she gained practical experience working with local non-profit environmental organizations and municipal governments. She earned a Master of Environmental Science and Management and a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Rhode Island.

Chris Witt, Principal Planner
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Chris Witt is a Principal Planner at the Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program, where he has worked on freight and non-motorized transportation issues. Previously he worked at the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission a regional planning agency in Newport, Rhode Island. Chris holds a Master of City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania.

Save the Date – August 19 – **EBC RI Chapter Program Planning Meeting**
Offices of Adler Pollock & Sheehan – 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

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