



**EBC Connecticut Webinar**  
**Brownfields Funding and Planning Updates – When Life Gives You Lemons...**

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

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**AGENDA**

- 1:30 p.m.     **Welcome:** Dana Huff, Chair, EBC Connecticut Chapter  
Senior Vice President, Tighe & Bond
- Program Introduction – what you will learn:**
- Sarah R. DeStefano, Program Co-Chair; Team Leader, Weston & Sampson
- 1:50 p.m.     **Overview and Updates on Connecticut Brownfield Programs**
- Binu Chandy, Deputy Director  
Office of Brownfield Remediation & Development  
Department of Economic & Community Development  
State of Connecticut
- 2:20 p.m.     **Overview and Updates on U.S. EPA Brownfield Programs**
- James P. Byrne, Brownfields Coordinator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region I
- 2:50 p.m.     **Networking Opportunity**
- 3:00 p.m.     **Break**
- 3:10 p.m.     **White Elephants, Brownfields and Green Corridors: Integrating Adaptive Reuse and Place-Making**
- David Gamble, AIA, AICP, LEED AP, Principal, Gamble Associates

- 3:30 pm      **Maximizing on Opportunities (Zones)**
- Melina Ambrosino, Executive Vice President, Cherrytree Group
- 4:00 p.m.      **Moderated Discussion with Speakers**
- Moderator:** Robert S. Melvin, Robinson & Cole LLP
- 4:30 p.m.      **Adjourn**

### **PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS**

**Sarah R. DeStefano**, Team Leader  
Weston & Sampson, Inc.  
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Sarah DeStefano is a Team Leader at Weston & Sampson. An accomplished project manager with more than 20 years of experience in the areas of environmental assessment, remediation, and Brownfields redevelopment, Sarah has spent her entire career in Brownfields. Her past roles at the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) and US EPA provide her with a unique regulatory perspective to her projects. Sarah has an extensive knowledge base of the financial, procedural, and regulatory requirements for federally-funded Brownfields sites and has worked on several EPA Brownfields Success Stories. With a degree in chemical engineering, and a passion for Brownfields redevelopment, Sarah leads a team of multi-disciplined professionals at Weston & Sampson which has assisted more than a dozen communities, regional planning and economic development commissions, as well as non-profit organizations in securing more than \$5 million in state and federal brownfields grants in the last few years alone.

**Robert S. Melvin**, Partner  
Robinson & Cole LLP  
280 Trumbull Street, Hartford, CT 06103  
860-275-8251 | rmelvin@rc.com

[Bob Melvin](#) has over 20 years of experience counseling clients on brownfields, sustainability, environmental, health, and safety compliance strategies and enforcement defense, emergency response efforts, site remediation, and siting and permitting of development projects. He also represents companies and organizations in related real estate and corporate transactions, and in proceedings before agencies and courts. A wide range of clients benefit from his services, including municipalities, water and wastewater utilities, educational institutions, and aerospace, metal finishing and other manufacturers. Bob co-chairs [Robinson+Cole's interdisciplinary Sustainability Group](#) in addition to his leadership within the firm's [Environmental, Energy + Telecommunications Group](#).

### **SPEAKERS**

**Melina Ambrosino**, Executive Vice President  
Cherrytree Group  
287 Auburn Street, Newton, MA 02466  
617-431-2266 | melina@cherrytree-group.com

Melina Ambrosino is the Executive Vice President at the Cherrytree Group. She joined the Cherrytree Group team at its inception in 2011; and has worked extensively with the various tax credit incentive programs. At the Cherrytree Group, Melina focuses on business development, client relations and day-to-day operations while dedicating herself to understanding fundamentals of these tax credit incentive programs so that she can expand the Cherrytree Group's client base and help the business expand organically. Melina serves as the first point of contact for environmental consultants, developers, and real estate professionals, assisting them in determining their tax credit eligibility and helping to structure their projects accordingly.

**James P. Byrne**, Brownfields Coordinator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1  
5 Post Office Square - Mail Code: 07-2, Boston, MA 02109-3912  
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Jim has been working in the environmental field for over 30 years, after earning a B.S. in Biology (Environmental & Wildlife Concentrations) from Framingham State College and a M.S. In Civil Engineering (Hazardous Materials Management) from Tufts University. His experiences include work in the following fields: laboratory, consulting, hazardous waste management for a Fortune 500 corporation & the USEPA. He has held certifications & licenses in wildlife biology, industrial wastewater treatment, asbestos inspection & management/planning & OSHA Health & Safety. For the past 17 years, Jim has worked for the USEPA Region I Brownfields Team as a project officer overseeing assessment, cleanup & revolving loan fund grants in all six New England states. He also serves as the Team's Cleanup & State Program Lead.

What attracted Jim to the Brownfields program was the opportunity to use his knowledge of assessment & cleanup techniques to revitalize underutilized or abandoned sites for economic and/or greenspace reuse. Jim believes partnerships and stakeholder involvement are the keys to successful brownfields cleanup & redevelopment projects. Partnerships between all three levels of government and with the non-profit & private development sectors are incredibly important. Government often provides the seed money in the form of assessment and cleanup funds as well as certain liability protections and assurances, and other incentives (tax credits, etc.) to make the property more attractive to prospective developers. Without the above partnerships, many brownfields projects would never get off the ground. Just as important as the above scenario, no brownfields project can be brought to fruition without a comprehensive stakeholder involvement plan. Community support for the project is crucial!

**Binu Chandy**, Deputy Director  
Office of Brownfield Remediation & Development  
Department of Economic & Community Development  
State of Connecticut  
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Binu Chandy is the Deputy Director of the Office of Brownfield Remediation & Development at the Department of Economic & Community Development (DECD). As the Deputy Director, she is in charge of managing and administering the policies and programs of the Office of Brownfields and helping return contaminated and dilapidated properties across the state to economic and productive use. The Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development is intended to be a one-stop for all brownfield redevelopment activities in the State and Binu helps collaborate the efforts of DEEP and other state agencies to achieve the same. Binu has been with the DECD for over 11 years and in previous roles, has managed large infrastructure and community projects in the Office of Capital Projects.

Prior to working at the DECD, Binu worked with an environmental consultancy firm in San Francisco and the Central Pollution Control Board in New Delhi, India. Binu has an undergraduate degree in civil engineering from the Mahatma Gandhi University in Kerala, India, a Masters in Environmental Planning from the School of Planning & Architecture, New Delhi and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Connecticut. Binu also serves on the Mansfield Planning & Zoning and Inland Wetlands Commission and the Board of the CT Green Bank.

**David Gamble**, Principal (AIA AICP LEED AP)

Gamble Associates

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David is the Principal of Gamble Associates and a Lecturer and Design Critic in the Department of Urban Planning and Design at Harvard's Graduate School of Design. He is the current chair of the AIA's Regional and Urban Design Committee (2017-2021) and is former co-chair of the Boston Society of Architects (BSA) Urban Design Committee. He has served on the Boards of the BSA and Architecture Boston. He is Past President of the Community-Design Resource Center-Boston and established the Syracuse University Community Design Center as an Assistant Professor. His prior work experience includes Chan Krieger Sieniewicz (now nbbj), Krier&Kohl in Berlin, Germany and vanMerkestyn&Partners in Potsdam, Germany and Zurich, Switzerland. David received a Bachelor's of Architecture Degree from Kent State University and a Master's of Architecture in Urban Design, with distinction, from the GSD. He is a recipient of the AIA's National Young Architects Award and the Gabriel Prize.

David's research and writing looks at the catalytic effects of urban design and planning projects with a focus on creative implementation strategies to enable redevelopment. Together with Patty Heyda (Washington University) he published "*Rebuilding the American City*" published by Routledge Press (2016). The book presents five paradigms for redevelopment and a range of perspectives on the complexities, strategies, successes and challenges inherent to rebuilding American cities today. His current research investigates small town redevelopment ("*Reinventing the American Town*", Routledge Press, 2021) and he is editing a collection of essays about Boston's future (UMass Press).

## UPCOMING EBC PROGRAMS

### SEPTEMBER 2020

September 16: Infrastructure Leadership Webinar – MassDOT Program Priorities

September 17: EBC 27th Annual EBEE Awards Celebration

**September 22: Connecticut Offshore Wind Virtual Conference**

September 22: Ascending Professionals Webinar – Guide to Virtual Presentations

September 23: Annual Ocean & Coastal Construction Conference

September 25: Climate Adaptation Forum – Climate Solutions

September 29: Solid Waste Management Webinar – Landfill Post Closure Care

September 30: Update from the MassDEP Bureau of Water Resources Leadership

### OCTOBER 2020

**October 13: Connecticut Webinar – Annual Update on Solid Waste Management**

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