



**EBC Ocean and Coastal Resources Webinar
2nd Annual Regional Agency Update – Protecting Coastal Resources and Structures**

Thursday, February 3, 2022

This program made possible in part with the support from:

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Program Chairs

John P. Casey, Partner, Robinson+Cole
Stacy Minihane, Senior Associate, Beals + Thomas

AGENDA

- 9:00 a.m. **Welcome:**
- Payson Whitney, Chair, EBC Ocean & Coastal Resources Committee
Regional Group Manager, Coastal Services, ESS Group, LLC
- Program Introduction**
- John P. Casey, Program Co-Chair; Partner, Robinson+Cole
- 9:20 a.m. **Advancing Living Shorelines and Coastal Resilience in NH: A Look at the Latest Programming, Guidance, Regulatory Updates, and What's Next**
- Nathalie DiGeronimo, CFM, Resilience Project Manager, Coastal Program
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES)
 - Kevin Lucey, Habitat Coordinator, Coastal Program
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES)
- 9:40 a.m. **Advancing Coastal Resource Protection and Resilience in Connecticut**
- Brian Thompson, Director, Land and Water Resources Division
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)

- 10:00 a.m. Coastal Buffer Zones and Resilience in a Regulatory Landscape**
- Leah Feldman, Coastal Policy Analyst
Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC)
- 10:20 a.m. Networking Opportunity**
- 10:40 a.m. Break**
- 10:50 a.m. Massachusetts Coastal Regulations: Promoting Resilience**
- Lisa Rhodes, Chief, Wetlands Program
Division of Wetlands and Water Ways, Bureau of Water Resources
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
 - Pamela Harvey, Esq., Environmental Analyst
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
 - Julia Knisel, Coastal Shoreline & Floodplain Manager
Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM)
- 11:10 a.m. Implementing New Sea Level Rise Standards in Maine's Laws and Regulations**
- Peter Slovinsky, Marine Geologist, Maine Geological Survey
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
- 11:30 a.m. Moderated Discussion**
- Moderator:** Mary Kate Schneeweis, Senior Environmental Planning Specialist
Beals + Thomas
- Panel Members:**
- Nathalie DiGeronimo, New Hampshire DES
 - Leah Feldman, Rhode Island CRMC
 - Pamela Harvey, Massachusetts DEP
 - Julia Knisel, Massachusetts CZM
 - Kevin Lucey, New Hampshire DES
 - Lisa Rhodes, Massachusetts DEP
 - Peter Slovinsky, Maine Geological Survey
 - Brian Thompson, Connecticut DEEP
- 12:00 p.m. Adjourn**

PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS

John P. Casey, Partner
Robinson+Cole
88 Howard Street, Suite C-1, New London, CT 06320
860.275.8359 | jcasey@rc.com

John Casey concentrates his practice on land use and environmental matters, with particular emphasis on coastal management, development, permitting, and littoral and riparian water rights. He is a member of Robinson+Cole's Land Use and Real Estate + Development Groups, and the partner in charge of the firm's New London office.

Before joining the firm, John was a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, Judge Advocate General's Corps, fulfilling various legal duties while stationed at the Naval Submarine Base in Groton, Connecticut. After completing his military service, he worked for a litigation firm in New London, Connecticut.

Stacy Minihane, Senior Associate

Beals + Thomas

32 Court Street, Plymouth, MA 02360

144 Turnpike Road, Southborough, MA 01772

508.366.0560 x4860 | 774.454.4759 | sminihane@bealsandthomas.com

Stacy is the leader of B+T's Planning and Environmental Services Discipline and Planning and Permitting Group. She is a Professional Wetland Scientist and MVP Certified Provider with over 15 years of experience with local, state and federal permitting processes, wetland science and environmental research. She is adept at the preparation and oversight of complex reports and permitting documentation, and also provides project peer review services for various Conservation Commissions in Massachusetts, and is active in various state wetland organizations, as well as the international Society of Wetland Scientists.

PANEL MODERATOR

Mary Kate Schneeweis, Senior Environmental Planning Specialist

Beals + Thomas

32 Court Street, Plymouth, MA 02360

144 Turnpike Road, Southborough, MA 01772

508.366.0560 | mschneeweis@bealsandthomas.com

As an MVP Certified Provider, Mary Kate excels at engaging with large- and small-group input gathering and reaching consensus. Mary Kate leads B+T's MVP Planning projects and has also overseen Hazard Mitigation Plan updates. Her knowledge of GIS software and readily available sources of data allows her to supplement permit applications and planning efforts with detailed graphics that identify necessary information. She particularly enjoys applying her educational background in geological processes to the planning and permitting of resiliency improvements, as well as facilitating discussions about planning for climate change.

She is also a former member of the Natick Conservation Commission and previously served on the Charles River Dam Advisory Committee, whose purpose is information gathering, public outreach, and achieving agreement to address the future of this DCR-designated high hazard dam

SPEAKERS

Nathalie DiGeronimo, CFM, Resilience Project Manager, Coastal Program

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

222 International Drive, Suite 175, Portsmouth, NH 03801

603.559.0029 | Nathalie.M.DiGeronimo@des.nh.gov

Nathalie M. DiGeronimo, CFM is the Resilience Project Manager for the New Hampshire Coastal Program and is responsible for helping state agencies, coastal municipalities, and residents adapt to sea-level rise. She is a Certified Floodplain Manager and co-chairs the NH Coastal Adaptation Workgroup and the Coastal States Organization Coastal Hazards Planning and Adaptation Workgroup. Nathalie previously served as a Planning and Policy Analyst for the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program. She holds a Master of Coastal Environmental Management from Duke University and a B.A. in Biology from Occidental College. Nathalie is happiest on or by the sea and enjoys baking and eating bread.

Leah Feldman, Coastal Policy Analyst
Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council
4808 Tower Hill Road, Wakefield, RI 02879
401.783.7235 | lfeldman@crmc.ri.gov

Leah Feldman is a Coastal Policy Analyst for the Coastal Resources Management Council of Rhode Island. Originally from New York, Feldman received her undergraduate degree from Colgate University with dual degrees in Environmental Studies and English Literature. She received her Master of Arts in Marine Affairs from the University of Rhode Island before being selected for the prestigious NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship, which placed her in New York State's Coastal Program working for the Department of State's Office of Community Planning, Development and Community Infrastructure. During her two years with the NOAA Fellowship, Feldman assisted the Ocean and Great Lakes Team in creating scenario planning focused resiliency efforts on Lake Ontario. In her current role with the CRMC, Leah Feldman focuses on issues regarding public access to the shoreline, community engagement, habitat and shoreline change policy efforts, and resilience.

Pamela Harvey, Esq., Environmental Analyst
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
One Winter Street, Boston, MA 02108
pamela.harvey@mass.gov

Pamela Harvey served in several positions at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection from 1991 to 2015, and returned in 2020 to assist with regulations governing work in the coastal floodplain. She has been responsible for regulatory and policy development related to wetlands protection, water quality, and public trust issues. She also served as a presiding officer to conduct hearings on permit and enforcement cases. Recently, she has been involved with local climate change resiliency efforts in Boston and Woods Hole.

Julia Knisel, Coastal Shoreline & Floodplain Manager
Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management
251 Causeway Street, Suite 800, Boston, MA 02114
julia.knisel@mass.gov

Julia leads the StormSmart Coasts program for the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management to help communities address coastal erosion and flooding while enhancing beach systems. She supports state hazard mitigation and climate adaptation and serves on the Resilient Massachusetts Action Team. Julia is a member of the Massachusetts Emergency Support Function Team to inform response and recovery from coastal storm events. Julia also collaborates with state, federal, and non-profit partners across New England on coastal hazards and resilience through the Coastal Hazards Resilience Committee of the Northeast Regional Ocean Council, which has been focused on advancing nature-based approaches to shoreline management.

Kevin Lucey, Habitat Coordinator, Coastal Program
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES)
222 International Drive, Suite 175, Portsmouth, NH 03801
603.559.0026 | kevin.p.lucey@des.nh.gov

Kevin Lucey, Habitat Coordinator for the NHDES Coastal Program (NHCP), manages projects for the restoration, conservation, and evaluation of jurisdictional coastal ecosystems in NH. Kevin has worked for NH Coastal Program for 15 years and has focused on stream habitat assessment, salt marsh monitoring, invasive plant management, dam removal, and culvert assessment and replacement. His work plays a vital role in supporting coastal communities in their identification of high priority restoration and conservation opportunities.

Lisa Rhodes, Chief, Wetlands Program
Division of Wetlands and Waterways
Bureau of Water Resources
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
One Winter Street, Boston, MA 02108
857.772.2372 | lisa.rhodes@mass.gov

Lisa Rhodes, MassDEP Wetlands Program Chief, is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the Boston-based Program's regulatory, policy and guidance, compliance, and enforcement activities pertaining to the Wetlands Protection Act and Water Quality Certification. While at MassDEP, Lisa has served as Variance Supervisor, responsible for review of major projects considered for Variances of the Wetlands Protection Act, Wetlands Monitoring and Assessment Program Manager, and author (or co-author) of numerous Wetland Program guidance documents. Lisa's experience prior to joining MassDEP includes Supervisor at MassHighway's Environmental Compliance Section, environmental consultant, and Conservation Administrator for the Town of Weymouth. Lisa has a B.S. in Natural Resources from the University of Rhode Island, and has completed graduate level courses in hydrogeology at Boston University.

Peter Slovinsky, Marine Geologist
Maine Geological Survey
93 State House Station
17 Elkins Lane, Williams Pavilion, Augusta, ME 04333
207.287.2801 | peter.a.slovinsky@maine.gov

Peter Slovinsky is a Marine Geologist with the Maine Geological Survey in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. His work focuses on sea level rise, coastal hazards, beach and shoreline erosion mapping, living shorelines, and assessing the vulnerability of both natural and built environments to the potential effects of sea-level rise and storms in support of municipal, regional, and state level decision-making. Peter helps communities understand coastal hazards and develop viable local and regional adaptation strategies and enjoys making technical science understandable to a variety of different stakeholder audiences. Peter has an MS in Geological Sciences and a BA in Geosciences. When he's not in the office or field, you might find him surfing, fly fishing, hiking, skiing, or just walking his dogs on the beach.

Brian Thompson, Director Land and Water Resources Division
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106
860.424.3019 | brian.thompson@ct.gov

Brian Thompson is Director of the Land & Water Resources Division and Coastal Program Manager at the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection. His responsibilities include programs for restoration, protection and managed use of Connecticut's water-related inland and coastal resources. Brian's academic background is in geology and marine resources policy, and he has previously worked in various environmental management capacities in the private sector and federal government.