



**EBC Fourth Annual
New England Climate Change and Resiliency Summit**

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

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Summit Co-Chairs

Thomas Burack, Shareholder, Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green, PA
Diane Mas, Vice President, Chief Resilience Officer, Fuss & O'Neill
H. Curtis Spalding, Principal Consultant, Spalding Environment and Climate Strategies, LLC

AGENDA

9:00 a.m. **Welcome:** Ann K. Gisinger, President and Executive Director, EBC

Introduction

- Thomas Burack, EBC Advisory Council
Shareholder, Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green, PA

- 9:20 a.m. Rhode Island**
- Terry Gray, Director
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM)
 - Shaun O'Rourke, Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank
- 9:40 a.m. Connecticut**
- Rebecca French, Director of the Office of Climate Planning, Connecticut
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP)
- 10:00 a.m. Massachusetts**
- Mia G. Mansfield, Director of Climate Adaptation and Resilience
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- 10:20 a.m. Break**
- 10:30 a.m. Vermont**
- Jane Lazorchak, Director, Climate Action Office
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
- 10:50 a.m. New Hampshire**
- Kirsten Howard, Resilience Program Coordinator
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES)
 - Nathalie DiGeronimo, Resilience Project Manager, NHDES
- 11:10 a.m. Maine**
- Sarah Curran, Deputy Director, Climate Planning & Community Partnerships
Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, State of Maine
- 11:30 a.m. Panel Discussion**
- Moderator:** H. Curtis Spalding, EBC Advisory Council
Principal Consultant, Spalding Environment and Climate Strategies
- Panel Members:**
- Sarah Curran, Maine
 - Nathalie DiGeronimo, New Hampshire
 - Rebecca French, Connecticut
 - Terry Gray, Rhode Island
 - Kirsten Howard, New Hampshire
 - Jane Lazorchak, Vermont
 - Mia G. Mansfield, Massachusetts
 - Shaun O'Rourke, Rhode Island
- 12:00 p.m. Adjourn**

SUMMIT CO-CHAIRS

Thomas Burack, Shareholder
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As Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) from 2006-2016, Tom led the Granite State's efforts to address climate change. Tom helped orchestrate New Hampshire's entry into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), was a founding member of the Board of Directors of RGGI, Inc., and chaired a 29-member Governor's commission that developed the New Hampshire Climate Action Plan (2009), which serves as the blueprint for New Hampshire's environmental, energy and economic development future by aiming to achieve the greatest feasible greenhouse gas reductions while also providing the greatest long-term economic benefits to the state's citizens.

Tom also envisioned and led NHDES's efforts to incorporate climate change considerations into all of its programs and activities, and he played a central role in focusing all of the state's agencies on the challenges of climate change, including extreme weather events and implementing climate-related mitigation, adaptation and resiliency strategies.

At the start of 2017, Tom returned to Sheehan Phinney where he practices environmental and energy law, consults on a range of environmental issues, and facilitates the development of scenario-based living strategic plans for governmental and nonprofit organizations. A Fellow of the American College of Environmental Lawyers, Tom co-chairs ACOEL's Disaster Planning and Response Task Force, and at a national conference in April 2019 spoke on state efforts to include climate resiliency considerations in their disaster preparedness, response and recovery efforts.

Tom serves as an executive advisor and consultant to the Environmental Council of States (ECOS), the nonprofit, non-partisan association of state and territorial environmental agency leaders, on E-Enterprise for the Environment, a shared governance approach among the US Environmental Protection Agency, states and tribal governments to modernize and streamline the business of environmental protection and regulation in the United States. Tom is a Harry S. Truman Scholar, and served as Law Clerk to the Honorable David H. Souter on the Supreme Court of New Hampshire, and as Legislative Assistant for Environmental Matters to U.S. Senator Gordon J. Humphrey (R-NH) in Washington, DC.

Diane Mas, PhD, REHS/RS, Vice President, Chief Resilience Officer
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Dr. Mas is the Chief Resilience Officer at Fuss & O'Neill, Inc. and focuses on bringing a climate resilience framework to all aspects of Fuss & O'Neill's multi-discipline work across the natural and built environment.

She received her A.B. in Geology from Amherst College, M.S.E. from the Water Resources Program at Princeton University, and Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She has spent nearly 25 years working in the areas of water quality modeling, watershed management, and environmental impact assessment in inland and coastal environments. Her current areas of practice focus on climate change resilience and adaptation for water resources, water quality assessment and modeling, watershed management, harmful algal bloom impacts to drinking and recreational waters, and the relationship between water quality and public health.

Dr. Mas serves in the Infrastructure and Land Use Adaptation and Public Health and Safety Working Groups of the Connecticut Governor's Council on Climate Change and is a member of the National Environmental Health Association and the Association of Climate Change Officers.

H. Curtis Spalding, Principal Consultant
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Curt Spalding is the Principal Consultant for Spalding Environment and Climate Strategies. Current consulting includes advising Safe Harbor Marinas (SHM) on the development of SHM's ESG commitment, with project leadership on coastal ecosystem resilience and stewardship. Other work includes supporting the transfer of a large brownfield parcel from the Navy to Portsmouth Marine Partners and continuing to support the activities of the Providence Resilience Partnership.

Curt recently served as the Professor of the Practice for the Institute at Brown for Environment and Society. Research and advising students on urban resilience was my primary area of focus. Most significantly, he facilitated the creation of the Providence Resilience Partnership (PRP) and authored with Siddhi Nadkarni, Claire Bekker, and Devyn Collado-Nicol, "New England Coastal Cities: The Struggle for a Resilient Future", From Hurricanes to Epidemics, The Ocean's Evolving Impact on Human Health - Perspectives from the U.S. edited by Kevin Conrad, Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2021, pgs. 39-58.

With an accomplished record in environmental protection as an advocate, policy analyst, and administrator, Curt served the Obama Administration as USEPA New England Region 1 Administrator, and was Save The Bay's Executive Director from 1990 to 2008. Accomplishments include the development of the EPA Phoenix Award winning Save The Bay Center in Providence RI, and ecosystem plans to restore and protect New England's iconic waters, including Lake Champlain, Cape Cod, the Southern New England Coast, Long Island Sound, and Great Bay. His long-term advocacy efforts most especially contributed to the historic restoration of Narragansett Bay. While leading Brownfield and Superfund initiatives, along with helping communities gain the capability and capacity to be more climate change resilient, Curt strove to see New England cities revitalized and made healthy and prosperous places to live for every resident.

SPEAKERS

Sarah Curran, Deputy Director, Climate Planning and Community Partnerships
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Sarah Curran is Deputy Director, Climate Planning and Community Partnerships, with the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future. In this role, she leads climate policy planning and climate-related programs to support Maine communities. Prior to GOPIF, Sarah most worked for the Maine Development Foundation, where she served as Program Director for Forest Opportunity Roadmap (FOR/Maine), a collaborative effort by industry and community stakeholders to strengthen and grow Maine's forest products industry and reinvest in rural communities impacted by recent mill closures. Sarah has extensive community and economic development experience working with Maine communities and non-profit organizations. From 2007-2016, Sarah worked as a consultant with Planning Decisions, Inc. a

Maine-based research and planning firm. She has a master's degree in community planning and development from the Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine.

Nathalie DiGeronimo, CFM, Resilience Project Manager, Coastal Program
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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.

Dr. Rebecca French, Director of the Office of Climate Planning
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As the first director of the new Office of Climate Planning at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Dr. French advises the Commissioner on mitigation, adaptation and resilience plans across all divisions of the agency. Her first charge in the position is to administer the Governor's Council on Climate Change.

Previously, Dr. French served as the Director of Resilience for the CT Department of Housing, overseeing the \$64.3M grant awarded to the State of Connecticut through the US HUD National Disaster Resilience Competition as well as the Rebuild by Design pilot project in Bridgeport, CT. Dr. French served as the Director of Community Engagement for the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) from 2014-2018. She was a AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of Research and Development on the staff of the Chief Innovation Officer.

Dr. French also spent a year in Congress as a Congressional Science Fellow, sponsored by the American Geophysical Union, in the Office of US Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT). She served as a policy advisor to the Senator in the areas of energy, environment, and agriculture.

Dr. French holds a Ph.D. in geosciences from Virginia Tech, a masters in soil science from Cornell University and has an undergraduate degree in chemistry and environmental studies from Oberlin College. She was born and raised in northeast Connecticut and now lives in West Hartford, within biking distance of her job, with her husband and son.

Terry Gray, Director
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Terrence Gray is the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. He leads the agency and is responsible for programs related to natural resource stewardship and management as well as environmental protection.

Major programs within the Department include Parks & Recreation, Marine Fisheries, Fish & Wildlife, and Agriculture as well as all the major environmental regulatory programs, including compliance, technical assistance, permitting, remediation, and enforcement programs for air, water, and land protection.

Terry serves as the Chairman of the Rhode Island Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council and has been the primary point person on the Rhode Island inter-agency team for the Transportation and Climate Initiative. He has also led several permitting and enforcement program initiatives and reforms at DEM and has been directly involved in the highly successful Brownfields program in RI since its inception.

Terry has been with DEM for over thirty-five years. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Lehigh University, a Master of Science degree in Civil & Environmental Engineering from Northeastern University, and Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Rhode Island. Mr. Gray is a registered professional engineer in Rhode Island.

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Kirsten Howard is the Resilience Program Coordinator for the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program. Kirsten assists New Hampshire's 17 coastal communities to plan and prepare for coastal hazards such as sea-level rise, erosion, and storm flooding by providing technical assistance and grant support. Kirsten is a Certified Floodplain Manager and received a B.A. from Brown University and a M.S. from the University of Michigan. Kirsten lives in Portsmouth with her husband, baby girl, and dog, and she enjoys gravel cycling and eating the bread Nathalie bakes.

Jane Lazorchak, Director, Climate Action Office
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With a Master of Science from the Ecological Planning Program at UVM, Jane began her career in public service with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. Throughout her 15 years with the Department, Jane served in various roles at the Department, most recently as the Public Land Section Chief, where she conserved more than 10,000 acres of public land and oversaw public land management for the Department. In early 2020, Jane stepped into a new role working for the Secretary as the Director of the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA). As the Director, Jane worked closely with the Climate Council to stand up Vermont's Initial Climate Action Plan in December of 2021. The plan speaks to how the state will cut our emissions while investing in our rural communities to adapt to climate change, build resilience and enhance the sequestration of our working and natural lands. As Vermont now stands up a Climate Action Office, Jane directly oversees the policies, programs and tools needed to implement climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience strategies. The Vermont Office of Climate Action will coordinate and provide significant expertise and capacity on state-led climate initiatives, as well as the monitoring, assessment and tracking of climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience activities necessary to evaluate progress over time in achieving the requirements of the GWSA through implementation of the Plan.

Mia G. Mansfield, Director of Climate Adaptation and Resilience
MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

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Mia is the Director of Climate Adaptation and Resilience at the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. In this role, she co-leads the implementation of the State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan, and the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program. Prior to this, she launched and led the Climate Ready Boston initiative for the City of Boston. She has a Master's in City Planning from MIT and a BA from Brandeis University.

Shaun O'Rourke, Managing Director
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Shaun O'Rourke is Managing Director at Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank where he leads program and business development. Shaun served as Rhode Island's first Chief Resilience Officer under Governor Gina Raimondo and led the development of the state's climate resilience action strategy, Resilient Rhody. Prior to joining RIIB, Shaun served as the National Green Infrastructure Director at The Trust for Public Land and was Director of Sustainable Design and faculty member at the Boston Architectural College. He has also worked at AECOM in New York City as an Ecological Designer focusing on public sector infrastructure projects and firm-wide promotion of nature-based solutions. Shaun holds a Master of Landscape Architecture degree from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and a B.S from University of Vermont.