



EBC Rhode Island Leadership Program “Hot Topics” with the RIDEM Office Chiefs

In Partnership with:
Rhode Island Society of Environmental Professionals

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

District Hall Providence
Matunuck Room
225 Dyer Street
Providence, RI 02903

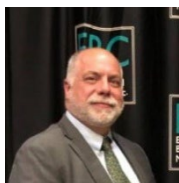
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AGENDA

- 9:00 a.m. **Welcome & Program Overview**
- Rick Mandile, Chair, EBC Rhode Island Chapter
Principal, SAGE Environmental

- 9:15 a.m. **RIDEM Organization Overview**



Terry Gray, Director
Bureau of Environmental Protection
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

- 9:40 a.m. New Wetlands Regulations**
- Eric Beck, P.E., Administrator, Groundwater and Freshwater Wetlands Protection Office of Water Resources
 - Ron Gagnon, Administrator, Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
- 10:20 a.m. PFAS**
- Jim Ball, Administrator, Office of Emergency Response
 - Joseph Haberek, P.E., Administrator of Surface Water Protection Office of Water Resources
 - Nick Noons, P.E., Environmental Engineer IV Office of Land Revitalization & Sustainable Materials Management
- 11:00 a.m. Break**
- 11:20 a.m. Climate**
- Elizabeth Stone, Climate Change Policy & Programs, Office of the Director
 - Laurie Grandchamp, Administrator, Office of Air Resources
- 11:50 a.m. Dam Safety Changes**
- David Chopy, P.E., Administrator, Office of Compliance & Inspection
- 12:15 p.m. Site Remediation Regulations Preview**
- Leo Hellested, P.E., PLS, Administrator Office of Land Revitalization & Sustainable Materials Management
- 12:30 p.m. Adjourn**

PROGRAM CHAIR

Rick Mandile, Principal
SAGE Environmental
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After graduating from Vermont Law School's prestigious Environmental Law Center, Rick Mandile began his career performing a broad range of environmental assessment and remedial services in New England. For the first 10 years of his career, he worked for small and large consulting firms. In 1995, Rick founded SAGE Environmental which he and his team have grown to become the largest environmental, health and safety (EH&S) consultancy headquartered in Rhode Island. To-date, Rick has led the environmental assessment of over 2,000 properties throughout the east coast and successfully completed some of the most complex remedial projects in the region.

He is recognized as a master strategist in securing approvals for complex and controversial projects, developing environmental compliance plans for pro-active and troubled companies, and successfully completing and defending a wide variety of environmental permits.

Rick represents developers, businesses and high net worth individuals with real estate and business due diligence needs as well as permitting, siting, compliance and auditing services. His projects comprise all scales of commercial and industrial developments/redevelopments ranging from residential subdivisions

to industrial scale energy projects. Environmental assessment and remedial projects include many state and federal brownfields sites, hospitals, universities, solar farms, industrial scale anaerobic digestion facilities, and Fortune 500 firms.

He is Chairman of the Rhode Island Chapter of the Environmental Business Council, a member of the Massachusetts LSP Association, RI Society of Engineers and RI Realtors Association amongst others.

Rick is a licensed ship captain, an avid outdoorsman and enjoys spending time with his two children, Caleb and Mackenzie, and his partner, Carleen.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Terry Gray, Director
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
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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.

SPEAKERS

Jim Ball, Administrator, Office of Emergency Response
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Services
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Jim has been with the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) for over 34 years with the responsibility of protecting public health and the environment. Jim has a Bachelor of Science degree, concentrating in hydrology from the University of Rhode Island. He is the Administrator of the Office of Emergency Response, which has the responsibility of investigating approximately 700 complaints a year that involve oil, chemical, suspicious substances, and hazardous material incidents. As the Administrator his responsibilities also include the Aboveground Storage Tank Program that regulates approximately 700 facilities with thousands of ASTs and the State of Rhode Island TIER II Program regarding reporting requirements for approximately 700 facilities. He has also worked with school systems throughout the state to remove thousands of unwanted and banned chemicals to ensure student and teacher safety. Jim is the DEM appointed member of the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and has been trained

as a member of the All-Hazard Incident Management Team for Rhode Island. He is a member of the RI Emergency Management Advisory Council (EMAC) spearheaded by the Lieutenant Governor. He has been appointed by the Governor as a member of the Fire Education and Training Coordination Board that provides recommendations for classes and curriculums for the RI Fire Academy. Jim is the Chair of the RI Hazardous Materials / Decontamination Working Group and ensures that each team maintains their Type I status via training and the purchase of required equipment. He is a member of the Federal Regional Response Team, working with many agencies such as the United States Coast Guard and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Eric Beck, P.E., Administrator, Groundwater and Freshwater Wetlands Protection
Office of Water Resources, Bureau of Environmental Protection
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Mr. Beck is involved in developing and implementing a broad range of environmental regulatory programs protecting Rhode Island's groundwater and freshwater wetlands. Mr. Beck is responsible for the RI DEM's Office of Water Resources Permitting Programs that implement the Freshwater Wetlands Rules, On-site Wastewater Treatment System Rules, Groundwater/Underground Injection Control Rules, Water Quality Rules, and RI Storm Water Rules. In the thirty years that Mr. Beck has been with the Department of Environmental Management he has been involved in the development and implementation of many significant permitting programs. While managing the Underground Storage Program he oversaw the upgrade of single-walled steel tanks by the nationwide 1998 deadline. Overseeing the Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program, he was responsible for issuing new permits for RI's municipal wastewater treatment facilities to require the treatment of nutrients, issued the State's first Multi-sector General Permit for Industrial Stormwater, amended the RIPDES Regulations to include the Municipal Stormwater (MS4) Rules and developed the MS4 General Permit and the RIPDES General Permit for Construction Stormwater. Mr. Beck was also actively involved in the development of RI's 2010 Storm Water Design Manual, the 2014 Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook, the 2022 New England Stormwater Retrofit Manual, the 2022 Freshwater Wetlands Rules and the new Freshwater Wetlands General Permit. Mr. Beck graduated from Merrimack College with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Rhode Island.

David Chopy, P.E., Administrator, Office of Compliance & Inspection
RI Department of Environmental Management
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Mr. Chopy began his career at RIDEM in March 1985 in the Office of Water Resources (OWR) as an entry level engineer. He was promoted to Senior Engineer and Supervising Engineer responsible for various programs in OWR (wastewater treatment, O&M and sludge management, complaint response, water quality certification, shellfish management). In 1996, Mr. Chopy was transferred to the newly created Office of Compliance and Inspection (OC&I) where he was responsible for complaint response and enforcement for the water programs (wetlands, OWTS, water pollution, and dam safety). In 2008, Mr. Chopy was promoted to Chief (now Administrator) of OC&I. In this role he manages an office of 24 FTEs comprised of scientists, engineers, and administrative staff. The OC&I investigates citizen complaints that are within the Bureau of Environmental Protection's responsibility and is the centralized administrative office for regulatory enforcement.

Mr. Chopy has a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Rhode Island and is a registered professional engineer.

Ron Gagnon, Administrator, Office of Customer & Technical Assistance
RI Department of Environmental Management
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Mr. Gagnon started his career in Los Angeles with the California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS), moving back to Rhode Island in 1984. He spent four years working as a consultant on transportation and land development projects and joined the RI Department of Environmental Management in 1989 as the Solid Waste Program Supervisor.

Mr. Gagnon is currently Chief of the Office of Customer and Technical Assistance. The Office provides pollution prevention assistance and compliance assistance through a number of programs that include the Environmental Results Program Sectors (auto body, auto salvage, UST with development ongoing for SQGs and stormwater construction compliance), Green Hospitality, and sea level rise resiliency for petroleum and chemical ASTs. The Office also provides permitting assistance through pre-application meetings and our Permit Application Center.

Mr. Gagnon has a BS in Civil Engineering and an MBA from the University of Rhode Island.

Laurie Grandchamp, P.E., Administrator, Office of Air Resources
RI Department of Environmental Management
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Laurie Grandchamp is currently the Administrator of the Office of Air Resources and manages the activities of the four sections in Air Resources – Permitting, Compliance, Air Toxics and Climate Change/Mobile Sources. She has been with the Department for 29 years. She originally began her career at DEM in the Office of Air Resources and then moved to the Office of Waste Management to work in the Superfund Program. In 2000, she became supervisor of the Waste Facilities Management Program and oversaw the permitting of solid waste, hazardous waste and medical waste facilities, as well as the Landfill Closure, Commercial Recycling and Electronic Waste Programs. Laurie returned to the Office of Air Resources in 2016 as Deputy Chief and was then promoted to Chief in June 2017. Laurie received a BS in Civil/Environmental Engineering from the University of Rhode Island. She is a licensed Professional Environmental Engineer in the State of Rhode Island.

Leo Hellested, P.E., PLS, Administrator,
Office of Land Revitalization & Sustainable Materials Management
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
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Mr. Hellested, PE is the Administrator of the Office of Land Revitalization & Sustainable Materials Management (formerly "Waste Management"). He has been with the Department for over 30+ years, spending the last 23 years as Chief, then Administrator of the Office. He also has served as a board director on several regional and national organizations, covering various waste and regulatory issues; and continues to serve as a Director on the Board of the Northeast Waste Management Officials Association (NEWMOA), which includes regulators from all the states of New England, New York, and New Jersey; and is the State's voting member with the national Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Organization (ASTSWMO) based in Washington D.C.

The Office of Land Revitalization & Sustainable Materials Management is responsible for overseeing all clean-up actions in Rhode Island, including those under EPA Superfund, federal Department of Defense,

and Brownfields, in addition to the Underground Storage Tank programs; and is also responsible for all permitting decisions for waste operations, including hazardous, solid, medical wastes, and recycling. Mr. Hellested also oversees many of the State's waste sustainability initiatives, including recycling, electronics, and food waste reduction programs within the Department of Environmental Management, and how those programs advance the State's Climate Action Plan.

He has also overseen and implemented regulatory reforms and updates in nearly every other technical area within the Office, include RCRA C (Hazardous Waste), RCRA I (Underground Tanks), and RCRA D (non-Hazardous Wastes), as well as numerous State specific programs including implementation of the State Brownfield Bond Fund, and the State UST financial Reimbursement Fund.

Prior to joining DEM in 1992, Mr. Hellested worked several years in private practice, as well as a two year stint as a Municipal Engineer for the City of Woonsocket, RI.

Mr. Hellested is a registered Professional Engineer and a registered Professional Land Surveyor in Rhode Island. He is a graduate of Tulane University in New Orleans, LA with a BS with honors in Civil/Environmental Engineering.

Joseph Haberek, Administrator of Surface Water Protection
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Mr. Haberek started his career in process engineering and facility environmental compliance for the plastics coating and textile industries for three years. He then joined RIDEM in 1997 in the Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) Program, working his way up to eventually become the supervisor of the RIPDES Program. In this position, he was responsible for permitting wastewater, municipal stormwater, and industrial stormwater discharges directly to surface water and for oversight of the Industrial Pretreatment Program for industrial discharges into sewer systems. Mr. Haberek is currently the Administrator of Surface Water Protection in the RIDEM's Office of Water Resources. In this role, he supervises the RIPDES, Operations and Maintenance, Wastewater Design, and Shellfishing Programs. Mr. Haberek has a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Rhode Island and is a registered Professional Engineer.

Nick Noons, P.E., Environmental Engineer IV
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Mr. Noons is a Supervising Engineer at RIDEM and oversees the Department of Defense (DOD) Program. He has served as the project manager for Superfund, FUDS, and State Site Remediation projects throughout Rhode Island. Nick has been involved with many PFAS-related initiatives, including site investigations, private well sampling, regulatory development, and interagency collaboration. He is a registered Professional Engineer and holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in Environmental Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Elizabeth Stone, Climate Change Policy & Programs, Office of the Director
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Elizabeth Stone has been with the DEM Director's Office since 2000. For her first six years with RI DEM, she served as the Department's legislative director. Elizabeth then transitioned into a policy role within the Director's Office working on a wide variety of policy and program development issues including climate change and resiliency. She holds a BA from Brown University and a Master in Public Policy (MPP), with a concentration in regulatory and environmental policy, from The College of William & Mary.