



**EBC Rhode Island Leadership Program:
Update on the State's Environmental, Energy, and Climate Programs**

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

Hybrid Program

District Hall
225 Dyer Street
Providence, RI 02903

In Partnership with:
Rhode Island Society of Environmental Professionals

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Program Planning Team

Christine Dieter, Partner, Hinckley Allen
Rick Mandile, Principal, SAGE Environmental, Inc
Alan Shoer, Partner, Adler Pollock & Sheehan, P.C.

AGENDA

- 9:00 a.m. **Registration, Refreshments, and Networking**
- 9:30 a.m. **Welcome**
- Ann Gisinger, Executive Director, EBC
- Program Introduction and Overview**
- Rick Mandile, Chair, EBC Rhode Island Chapter
Principal, SAGE Environmental, Inc.
- 9:45 a.m. **Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management – an Overview**
- Terrence Gray, Director
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM)
- 10:05 a.m. **Ongoing Developments in the RIDEM Bureau of Environmental Protection**
- Susan Forcier, Deputy Director, RIDEM
- 10:25 a.m. **RIDEM Q&A**
- 10:40 a.m. **Networking Break**
- 11:00 a.m. **Update from the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources**
- Christopher Kearns, Acting Energy Commissioner
Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (RIOER)
- 11:30 a.m. **Moderated Discussion**
- Moderator:** Alan Shoer, Vice Chair, EBC Rhode Island Chapter
Partner, Adler Pollock & Sheehan, P.C.
- Panel Members:**
- Susan Forcier, RIDEM
 - Terrence Gray, RIDEM
 - Christopher Kearns, RIOER
- 12:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

SPEAKERS

Susan Forcier, Deputy Director
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
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Susan Forcier has been the Deputy Director for Environmental Protection at the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management since December 2022. She oversees all the major environmental regulatory programs in DEM and directs the implementation of the compliance, technical assistance, permitting, remediation, and enforcement programs. Prior to taking on her current role, she was Deputy Chief Legal Counsel for the agency, and has been with DEM for over sixteen years. Her legal work for DEM covered a broad range of programs, from agriculture and animal health to permitting, legislation and enforcement. The primary focus of Susan's legal work with DEM was on the remediation and reuse of brownfields.

She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Biology and a Master of Marine Affairs degree, both from the University of Rhode Island, and a Juris Doctor degree from Roger Williams University. She is a member of the bar in both Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Terrence (Terry) Gray, Director for Environmental Protection
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
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A lifelong Rhode Islander who grew up on the shores of Narragansett Bay in the Gaspee Plateau neighborhood of Warwick, Terrence Gray became the Acting Director of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) on June 21. Governor Dan McKee announced Terry's appointment June 8, 2022.

Terry has worked at DEM for the whole of his 34-year career. He entered State service in 1987 as a hazardous waste program engineer and rose through the agency's ranks becoming Chief of the Division of Site Remediation in 1993, Chief of the Office of Waste Management in 1996, Assistant Director for Air, Waste, and Compliance in 1999, Associate Director for Environmental Protection in 2012, and Deputy Director for Environmental Protection in 2018.

Along with his agency-wide responsibilities, Terry continues to oversee all major environmental regulatory programs in DEM and directs the implementation of the compliance, technical assistance, permitting, remediation, and enforcement programs.

Career highlights include helping to develop the highly successful RI Brownfields program to clean up and redevelop contaminated sites, and, since 2019, serving as the primary point person on the interagency team for the Transportation and Climate Initiative, which would substantially cut greenhouse gases in the transportation sector. Terry is an avid hiker and has explored many of the trails throughout DEM's parks and management areas.

Terry participated in the Leadership Rhode Island program and is a proud member of the Phi class of 2001. In 2016, he participated in the Harvard JFK School of Government Executive Education program on Strategic Management of Regulatory and Enforcement Agencies. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Lehigh University, a Master of Science degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Northeastern University, and a Master of Business

Administration degree from the University of Rhode Island. Gray is a registered professional engineer in Rhode Island.

Christopher Kearns, Acting Energy Commissioner
Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908
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Chris Kearns is the Interim Energy Commissioner at the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources. Chris joined the Office of Energy Resources in 2012 and has led the agency's legislative efforts over the past decade. Prior to joining the Office of Energy Resources, Chris served as Governor Lincoln Chafee's energy, transportation and environment policy and legislative analyst. Chris graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Economics and Management in 2008.

PROGRAM PLANNING TEAM

Christine Dieter, Partner
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Christine practices in the Hinckley Allen's Environmental and Energy Practice Groups and in the Litigation practice. She handles a wide variety of environmental regulatory and litigation matters, and has extensive experience with permitting for large-scale renewable energy projects, including offshore wind farms and solar facilities.

Christine represents regional utilities in proceedings before state regulatory agencies and related litigation, including before the Rhode Island Supreme Court and Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. She assists with permitting and other regulatory matters for owners and developers of energy generation projects and provides regulatory advice regarding project development.

Christine is a member of Hinckley Allen's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee.

Rick Mandile, Principal
SAGE Environmental, Inc.
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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.

Alan Shoer, Partner

Adler Pollock & Sheehan, P.C.

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Alan's practice encompasses all aspects of energy, environmental, and public utility law. His clients include some of the largest national and regional energy, renewable energy, cable, telecommunications and water and transportation companies. Alan has advised these clients through all stages of project development, financing, mergers and acquisitions, and in regulatory proceedings and litigation, and government affairs.

With proven experience representing clients in wind, solar, hydro and other renewable energy matters, Alan has represented developers, investors, contractors, utilities, state agencies and municipalities in several successful and innovative sustainable energy projects. In the communications sector, Alan's clients include national cable companies and regional telecommunications and internet provider businesses. In the water sector, his clients include municipal and regional water utilities. In the transportation sector, Alan's clients include ferry businesses and motor vehicle companies, as well as transportation network providers.

Prior to joining Adler Pollock & Sheehan, Alan served in several capacities in industry and government. He served as an Assistant General Counsel and Director of Regulatory Affairs for utility companies, as General Counsel for the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, and as a Special Assistant Attorney General.