



EBC Rhode Island Webinar Environmental Justice – What is it and Why Should I Care

Tuesday, June 27, 2023

Virtual Program – Webinar

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Planning Team:

John Brito, Environmental Engineer, CDM Smith
Christine Dieter, Partner, Hinckley Allen
Daniel Doolittle, Principal, Integral Consulting Inc.
Rick Mandile, Principal, SAGE Environmental

AGENDA

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

Program Introduction

- John Brito, Environmental Engineer, CDM Smith

- 9:20 a.m. **Overview of EJ within National Context**
- Christophe Courchesne, Senior Staff Attorney Environmental Advocacy Clinic; Assistant Professor of Law, Vermont Law & Graduate School
- 9:45 a.m. **History of EJ in RI – RIDEM**
- Kelly Owens, Associate Supervising Engineer
Office of Land Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM)
- 10:10 a.m. **Networking Opportunity**
- 10:30 a.m. **Break**
- 10:35 a.m. **Current State of EJ in the State**
- Chris Gaynor, Climate Justice Specialist
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) and
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- 11:00 a.m. **Future of EJ in RI**
- Senator Dawn Euer, Rhode Island, District 13, Newport, Jamestown
- 11:25 a.m. **Moderated Discussion**
- Moderator:** Christine Dieter, Partner, Hinckley Allen
- Panel Members:**
- Christophe Courchesne, Vermont Law & Graduate School
 - Rhode Island State Senator Dawn Euer
 - Chris Gaynor, RIDEM and TNC
 - Kelly Owens, RIDEM
- 12:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

PROGRAM PLANNING TEAM

John Brito, PE, Environmental Engineer
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John Brito is an environmental engineer at CDM Smith with a focus on sanitary sewer and stormwater collection systems. He has worked on the rehabilitation of existing systems, environmental permitting, large scale data analysis, project management on consent decree programs and design of new wastewater infrastructure. He also is well versed in Geographic Information System (GIS) and asset management applications and technology.

John earned his BS in Civil & Environmental Engineering from the University of Rhode Island where he currently serves on the URI Civil Engineering Advisory Board and his MS in Civil & Environmental Engineering with a minor in GIS from the University of Missouri. John is a registered professional engineer in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Tennessee.

Christine Dieter, Partner

Hinckley Allen

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Christine is a partner in the firm's Environmental and Energy Practice Groups with experience advising clients on regulatory, permitting, and litigation matters. She has worked on some of the most complex energy projects in the region, including the permitting for the offshore wind projects South Fork Wind, Revolution Wind, and Sunrise Wind. She has worked on behalf of solar developers, including arguing successfully before the Rhode Island Supreme Court to overturn a zoning board decision denying the developer a special use permit for a commercial-scale project. Christine also represents regional utilities in proceedings before state regulatory agencies and related litigation, including before the Rhode Island Supreme Court and Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

Christine has extensive experience working with complex statutory and regulatory environmental schemes. She has worked on many federal consistency reviews under the Coastal Zone Management Act and has written and spoken on its applications. She has aided clients navigating wetlands, clean water, and remediation regulations, both in permitting projects and representing clients in litigation and enforcement matters. Christine focuses on creative problem-solving to help her clients resolve issues and move projects forward efficiently.

Christine is a member of the firm's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee.

Daniel Doolittle, Principal,

Integral Consulting Inc.

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Daniel Doolittle is broadly-trained marine scientist and senior program manager with over 25 years of industry, government, academic research, and consulting experience. He specializes in the marine geological, geochemical, and environmental fields.

He has recently joined Integral Consulting Inc. as Principal, where he will lead their renewable energy and offshore wind practice. Previously, Daniel led Fugro's Environmental Services business line throughout the Americas and oversaw Fugro's benthic habitat and essential fish habitat mapping efforts for the offshore wind and submarine cable industries. Some offshore wind projects he has worked on include: Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind, Southfork Wind, Sunrise Wind, Revolution Wind, Leading Light Wind, SouthCoast Wind (formerly Mayflower), New England Wind (formerly Vineyard Wind South), and the nation's first floating wind project in Maine, e.g. New England Aqua Ventus I. Beyond offshore wind, he has significant experience leading environmental baseline and geochemical exploration surveys for the offshore oil and gas industries in remote basins such as Mexico, Myanmar, New Zealand, Ghana, Kenya, Australia, Colombia, and the Arctic.

Daniel is a member of the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicines' Standing Committee on Offshore Wind Energy and Fisheries.

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.

SPEAKERS

Christophe Courchesne, Senior Staff Attorney, Environmental Advocacy Clinic
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Christophe Courchesne is the Senior Staff Attorney in the Environmental Advocacy Clinic and an Assistant Professor of Law. He has litigated environmental cases for nearly two decades. Before joining Vermont Law and Graduate School in 2022, he was Deputy Chief of the Energy and Environment Bureau and Assistant Attorney General at the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, leading work on the climate crisis, federal policy, environmental and racial justice, and clean energy. Prior to his bureau leadership, Professor Courchesne was Chief of the Environmental Protection Division at the AG's Office, with oversight of the division's civil enforcement docket, federal litigation and advocacy challenging Trump-era regulatory rollbacks, and defense of Massachusetts environmental agencies. Professor Courchesne was previously a Senior Attorney at Conservation Law Foundation, an associate in the environmental, energy, and land use practices at Goodwin Procter LLP, and a law clerk for the Honorable Robert Cordy at the

Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. He has been admitted to practice in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and various federal courts.

Professor Courchesne received his Juris Doctor cum laude from Harvard Law School. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in English, summa cum laude, from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Senator Dawn Euer, Rhode Island
District 13, Newport, Jamestown
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Dawn Euer is a Democrat representing District 13 (Newport, Jamestown) in the Rhode Island Senate. As an activist and organizer, Euer helped lead the fight for marriage equality in Rhode Island before winning election to the Senate in a 2017 special election. During her time in the legislature, she has advocated on issues related to the environment, economic justice, women's rights and more.

She was the lead sponsor of 2021's historic Act on Climate, which is the most comprehensive climate legislation in Rhode Island history. As the representative of a district on the front lines of climate change, she continues to advocate for substantial investments in renewable energy and resiliency.

She was part of the effort to codify safe and legal abortion access into state law through the Reproductive Privacy Act. She was also the Senate sponsor of the Student Loan Bill of Rights in 2019 and of a measure safeguarding women's access to contraception through insurance.

Sen. Euer has additionally introduced legislation barring high-capacity magazines for firearms; removing the spousal exemption from the state's rape law; requiring registration of short-term rentals listed on third-party platforms; seeking the creation of an independent redistricting commission; and prohibiting evictions during a state of emergency.

In 2022, Sen. Euer was named USA TODAY's Women of the Year honoree for Rhode Island. The awards recognize women across the country who have made a significant impact.

In 2021, in recognition of her work on the Act on Climate, Sen. Euer was honored as an Environmental Champion by Clean Water Action. She recently attended COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland, taking part in numerous panels about state leadership on climate action.

Also in 2021, Sen. Euer was honored with a Humane State Legislator Award from the Humane Society of the United States. The award recognized her work on Rhode Island's 2019 puppy mill law and her support of legislation seeking to phase-out fur sales.

Additionally, Sen. Euer was named Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly Attorney of the Year in 2021, the Audubon Society of Rhode Island's Legislator of the Year in 2019, and the 2021 recipient of U.S. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse's Service Recognition Award, which included a congressional statement for the record.

Born on June 14, 1979, Sen. Euer is a 2007 graduate of the University of Minnesota. She went on to earn a J.D. from Roger Williams University of Law in 2010. She is currently a candidate for a master's degree in marine affairs at the University of Rhode Island. She works as an attorney in private practice at the Law Office of Dawn Euer.

She is a member of the Rhode Island Bar Association Board of Delegates and a Board Member of Higher Ground International. She was previously a Supervising Attorney of the Roger William's University School of Law Pro Bono Collaborative. She currently serves as General Counsel for the Capital Good Fund.

She has also previously served on the boards of the Environmental Justice League of RI and Bike Newport and on Newport's Energy & Environment Commission, advising the City Council on renewables, sustainable planning and other environmental matters.

Chris Gaynor, Climate Justice Specialist

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and The Nature Conservancy
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Originally from South Florida, Chris is more than happy to call himself a “swamp child”. Prior to joining DEM, Chris had served in the Peace Corps in Tanzania and served in AmeriCorps in Vermont. It was while serving with rural communities that Chris came to fully appreciate the importance of community resilience. After living in communities both abroad and domestically, Chris has been dedicated to serve and thoughtfully participate in implementing effective, positive change within his communities. In his free time Chris is listening to podcasts, writing poetry, playing Dungeons and Dragons, or reenergizing outside eager to catch a glimpse of wildlife. Chris is excited to explore RI, so please share any recommendations or favorite places in the state!

Kelly Owens, Associate Supervising Engineer

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Kelly graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Cornell University in 1992 and received a Master of Business Administration from the University of Rhode Island in 2000.

She began working for the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) in December of 1992 and has always been in the Site Remediation and Brownfield section. She became an Associate Supervising Engineer in September of 2001.

She works in the DEM's Office of Land Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management. She supervises, along with an Environmental Engineer IV, a staff of five engineers and scientists that oversee the investigation and remediation of Brownfield, Voluntary Cleanup and other contaminated sites in the State. There are over 1000 projects currently active in this section and approximately 740 of those sites are located in the 2008 Environmental Justice Areas.