

*Environmental Business Council of New England, Inc.  
Sustainable Solutions Lab at the University of Massachusetts Boston*

## **Think Globally, Act Locally: Municipalities Adapt to the Climate Crisis**

Friday, March 5, 2021



Save the Date!  
**Friday, June 4, 2021**

EBC & Sustainable Solutions Lab at UMass Boston – Quarterly Climate Adaptation Forum  
EBC Contact: Ann Gisinger, [agisinger@ebcne.org](mailto:agisinger@ebcne.org) | SSL Contact: Rebecca Herst, [rebecca.herst@umb.edu](mailto:rebecca.herst@umb.edu)  
[www.climateadaptationforum.org](http://www.climateadaptationforum.org)

## AGENDA

- 10:00 a.m. Welcome**
- Kelly Knee, Forum Organizer  
Executive Director – Ocean Science, RPS
- Program Introduction**
- Aaron Weieneth, AICP, Forum Co-Chair  
New England Manager of Climate Change and Resilience, AECOM
- 10:10 a.m. National Perspective of Local Initiatives**
- Kristin Baja, Programs Director, Climate Resilience  
Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN)
- State and Federal Programs Facilitating Local Action**
- Nick Angarone, Manager, Climate Resilience Planning  
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
  - Joanne Throwe, President  
Throwe Environmental, LLC
- Moderator:** Jason Hellendrung, ASLA, PLA, Forum Co-Chair  
Vice President, Planning & Design, Tetra Tech
- 11:20 a.m. Break**
- 11:30 a.m. Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant Lightning Round**
- Ben Cares, Senior Planner & Project Manager  
Department of Housing & Community Development, City of Chelsea
  - Wayne Feiden, FAICP, Director Planning & Sustainability  
City of Northampton
  - Rebecca Longvall, Conservation Agent  
Town of Bolton
  - Tina Quagliato Sullivan, Director of Disaster Recovery & Compliance  
City of Springfield
- Moderator:** Carolyn Meklenburg, Greater Boston Regional Coordinator  
Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
- 12:10 p.m. Overcoming Barriers to Resilience: Individual & Multijurisdictional Approaches**
- Julie Wormser, Deputy Director  
Mystic River Watershed Association
  - Chris Castro, LEED GA, CPB, Director, Office of Sustainability & Resilience  
City of Orlando
- 12:55 p.m. Adjourn – Closing Remarks**
- Mark Costa, P.E., Forum Co-Chair  
Associate, Water Resources Engineer, VHB

## FORUM CO-CHAIRS

**Mark Costa**, P.E., Associate, Water Resources Project Manager  
VHB  
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Mark is a water resources project manager in VHB's Watertown office with 14 years of professional experience. Mark focuses on surface hydrology, riverine and coastal hydraulics, stormwater, climate change adaptation, resilient design, and permitting for a wide range of land development, energy, municipal, and transportation improvements projects.

Mark's experience includes coastal and riverine flood modeling that incorporates future climate conditions to evaluate flood impacts. This modeling is used to support his engineering design projects that focus on infrastructure improvements, nature-based solutions, and hybrid solutions to increase flood resilience. Some examples of his work includes the design of the Rumney Marsh salt marsh restoration in Saugus, stream restoration of Sweetwater Brook in Woburn, and the Suffolk Downs Climate Adaptation Study that studied regional flood protection to the communities of Boston and Revere. Mark also serves on the EBC Climate Change and Air Quality Committee, and the EBC and UMass Boston Climate Adaptation Forum Steering Committee.

**Jason Hellendrung**, ASLA, PLA, Vice President, Planning & Design  
Tetra Tech  
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Jason Hellendrung, ASLA is a Vice President and Director of Planning at Tetra Tech. In this role he directs landscape architecture, planning and urban design work on a wide range of complex urban, public infrastructure projects.

Mr. Hellendrung maintains a special interest and practice in the evolution and transformation of cities through infrastructure improvements, including the development and revitalization of urban waterfronts, adapting cities for climate change, and building city resilience. He is currently leading a study for the New York Department of State evaluating a Transfer of Development Rights program for vulnerable properties in the Extreme Risk Zone of coastal Long Island, allow TDR to higher, inland parcels. He is also working on implementation of the Rebuild by Design Living With The Bay project in Nassau County.

Prior to joining Tetra Tech, Mr. Hellendrung was the local lead for the consultant team for Climate Ready Boston. Leading up to Climate Ready Boston, he was an advisor for the organization of 100 Resilient Cities Boston, coauthored the Designing With Water (with Boston Harbor Now), was a juror and advisor for the Boston Living With Water Competition, and member of the team that created the Sea Change: Boston exhibit. He was also the Managing Principal and lead for the Cedar Rapids River Corridor Redevelopment Plan and several implementation projects developed to guide the city's recovery from their historic flood in June 2008.

**Carolyn Meklenburg**, Greater Boston Regional Coordinator  
Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
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Carolyn Meklenburg is the Greater Boston Regional Coordinator for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant Program. She works with municipalities on local climate change adaptation planning and implementation projects that are funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In addition to assisting communities with grant management, she connects MVP grantees with resources and local partners to support an equitable and holistic approach to building climate resilience.

Prior to her current role, Carolyn most recently worked with the City of Medford's Office of Energy & Environment on their climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning process, while earning her M.A. in Urban & Environmental Planning & Policy from Tufts University. Her thesis work focused on the opportunities and challenges of collaborating at a watershed scale on climate adaptation planning. Before graduate school, Carolyn worked for an urban conservation organization in Lowell, MA (Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust) and, prior to that, served with AmeriCorps Cape Cod. She graduated from Stonehill College with a B.A. in English, and currently resides in Boston.

**Aaron Weieneth**, AICP, New England Manager of Climate Change and Resilience  
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Aaron is an environmental planning specialist with almost 20 years of experience in hazard mitigation planning, climate change adaptation and resilience services, socioeconomic and demographic analyses, water resources planning, and environmental assessments. Aaron serves as AECOM's New England Manager of Climate Change and Resilience and coordinates with technical staff across business lines to integrate climate change and resilience considerations into infrastructure and planning projects for municipal, state, and federal clients. He managed development of the Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan—a first of its kind statewide plan that fully integrates a traditional hazard mitigation plan with a climate change adaptation plan—and is currently leading a climate change vulnerability assessment for the MBTA's Red Line. Aaron has a BA in Environmental Science from Simpson College and a MS in Geography from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

## **SPEAKERS**

**Nick Angarone**, AICP, Manager, Climate Resilience Planning  
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
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Nick serves as the Manager of Climate Resilience Planning in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. In this position, he oversees the New Jersey Coastal Management Program, leads the development of the New Jersey Climate Change Resilience Strategy and Coastal Resilience Plan, and oversees the implementation of the Resilient NJ planning program. As a licensed professional planner, he brings over 20 years of experience focused on the planning of environmentally conscious, sustainable, and resilient communities in New Jersey. He holds a Master of City and Regional Planning from the Rutgers University - Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy.

**Kristin Baja**, Programs Director, Climate Resilience  
Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN)  
M 952-250-5058 | kristinbaja@usdn.org

Kristin Baja ('Baja') is USDN's Climate Resilience Officer and is responsible for helping cities identify strategic ways to advance climate resilience planning and implementation and building their capacity to take proactive action. Baja focuses her time on supporting members and partners in working at the nexus of resilience, mitigation and equity while also helping center equity in their climate and sustainability work. She helps facilitate deeper relationships between local governments and stakeholders while helping to identify and shift focus to more collaborative and transformational action. Prior to USDN, Baja served as the Climate and Resilience Planner with the City of Baltimore's Office of Sustainability where she led the city's climate and equity work. She holds a Masters of Urban Planning and a Masters of Science from the University of Michigan. She is also an Aspen Global Change Institute Fellow, is an EPIC-N board member, and serves on several local and international advisory committees. In 2016, she was recognized by the Obama Administration as a Champion of Change for her work on climate and equity.

**Ben Cares**, Senior Planner & Project Manager  
Department of Housing & Community Development  
City of Chelsea  
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Ben Cares is the City of Chelsea's Senior Planner for the Department of Housing & Community Development. Ben works on an array of climate resilience projects for the City, including the Island End River Coastal Barrier & Open Space project. Ben focuses much of his time on environmental and climate resilience solutions that incorporate robust community engagement techniques and meaningful stakeholder engagement to produce holistic and mutually beneficial infrastructure and municipal preparedness projects. Currently, his

work involves coastal flood mitigation, urban heat island solutions, environmental restoration of wetlands, and clean energy deployment within the City of Chelsea. Ben holds a Masters of Urban Affairs from Boston University and a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Vermont.

**Chris Castro**, LEED GA, CPB, Director, Office of Sustainability & Resilience  
City of Orlando  
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Chris serves as the Senior Advisor to Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer, Director of Sustainability & Resilience, and 'Future-Ready' steering committee member at the City of Orlando -- developing a comprehensive set of policies & programs that has turned Orlando into one of the leading cities in America accelerating sustainability, resiliency, and climate action. Chris is best known for his entrepreneurial efforts prior to coming to the City, including co-founder and President of the global sustainability nonprofit, IDEAS For Us, a boutique clean energy consulting firm called Citizen Energy, and a renowned urban farming social enterprise that is redefining local food systems called Fleet Farming. In 2020, Chris also joined partners to launch 'Climate First Bank', the first B-Corp community bank in Florida working to advance ESG and local sustainable investing, officially opening May 31, 2021. Outside of work, Chris serves on many nonprofit and academic boards, including the UCF Energy Research Center, US Green Building Council of Florida, Project Greenschools, and Goodwill Industries of Central Florida. Over the years, his efforts have been internationally recognized, including being named the 2018 Public Official of the Year by Governing and receiving a 'Champions of Change' by President Barack Obama for his efforts to advance sustainability in schools. In December 2018, Chris starred in the National Geographic documentary on climate change called "Paris to Pittsburgh" to share the Orlando journey on climate action to millions of people around the World.

**Wayne Feiden**, FAICP, Director Planning & Sustainability  
City of Northampton  
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Wayne Feiden, FAICP is Director of Planning & Sustainability for the City of Northampton and Lecturer of Practice in planning at UMass. His focus includes sustainability, resiliency, revitalization, open space, alternative transportation, and public health. He led Northampton to earn the nation's first 5-STAR Community award for municipal sustainability. His publications include "Conservation Limited Development," "Building Sustainability and Resiliency into Local Planning Agencies," "Local Agency Planning Management", and "Assessing Sustainability." Wayne's Bellagio Residency (Italy), State Department Professional Fellowship Exchange (Malaysia), German Marshall Fund fellowship (United Kingdom and Denmark), Fulbright Specialist fellowships (South Africa and New Zealand), Eisenhower Fellowship (Hungary) all focused on revitalization and sustainability.

**Rebecca Longvall**, Conservation Agent  
Town of Bolton  
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Rebecca Longvall is the Conservation Agent for the Town of Bolton. Rebecca's work is an effort to balance wetland permitting, managing over 2,000 acres of open space with over 45 miles of trails and among other responsibilities, working toward encouraging the implementation of more climate resilient practices. Her background in sustainability science and environmental studies has greatly supported her most recent endeavors. She currently lives in Clinton, Ma where she volunteers on her local conservation commission.

**Tina Quagliato Sullivan**, Director of Disaster Recovery & Compliance  
City of Springfield  
1600 East Columbus Avenue, 1st Floor, Springfield, MA 01103  
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Tina Quagliato Sullivan is the City of Springfield's Director of Disaster Recovery under the Development Services Division. Tina has worked for the City of Springfield for fifteen years with varying roles in Housing, Community Development, Neighborhood Stabilization, Disaster Recovery and Resilience. Tina's work includes oversight and implementation of \$21.8 million in HUD Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery funds. In 2016, Tina successfully led the Springfield team that was one of only 22 nationwide applicants awarded \$17 million from HUD's ultra-competitive National Disaster Resilience Competition. The successfully funded projects center

around clean and redundant energy sources, safe and healthy rental homes, business and job opportunities and community engagement for the Springfield Urban Watershed District, of which Tina is currently overseeing implementation. Tina has previously spoken about Springfield's resilience initiatives at ResCon International in New Orleans. Tina created Springfield's Abutter Lot Program that was previously highlighted as a best practice by the Massachusetts Municipal Association, which reduced red-tape and streamlined the process of transferring abandoned tax title properties to increase greenspace for property owners. Tina anticipates earning a Masters of Public Administration from Westfield State University in May 2021, and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration and Political Science from Western New England University.

**Joanne Throwe**, President  
Throwe Environmental, LLC  
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Joanne Throwe is the President of Throwe Environmental, LLC as well as Senior Fellow at the University of Maryland School of Public Policy's Center for Global Sustainability. Joanne's work focuses on helping local governments find innovative ways to finance environmental and natural resource improvements, especially as it relates to climate change. Prior to this, Joanne was Deputy Secretary for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources where she served to protect, preserve, and restore Maryland's public lands and waterways. Before that, Joanne was Director of the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center serving the Mid-Atlantic region and helping communities finance environmental protection activities. Throwe Environmental is a proud partner in the Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Network and serves as the U.S. Technical Liaison for the National Climate Resilience Fund for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Joanne currently chairs US EPA's Environmental Financial Advisory Board that is responsible for providing innovative financing recommendations to the Administrator of US EPA. Joanne is an alumna from the University of Maryland School of Public Policy where she holds a Master's degree.

**Julie Wormser**, Deputy Director  
Mystic River Watershed Association  
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Julie Wormser is the deputy director of the Mystic River Watershed Association and founder of the Resilient Mystic Collaborative. Prior to joining MyRWA, she was the Vice President for Policy and Planning at Boston Harbor Now. As Executive Director of The Boston Harbor Association, Wormser was instrumental in drawing attention to Boston's need to prepare for coastal flooding from extreme storms and sea level rise. She coauthored *Preparing for the Rising Tide* and *Designing With Water* and co-led the Boston Living with Water international design competition with the City of Boston and Boston Society of Architects. She has a BA in biology from Swarthmore College and an MPA from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.