

Regional Reflections on Green Infrastructure and Nature-Based Solutions: Mid-Atlantic and Chesapeake Bay

May 23, 2022 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM ET

Speaker Biographies

Keynote Speaker: David J. Hayes, Special Assistant to the President for Climate Policy, White House Climate Policy Office

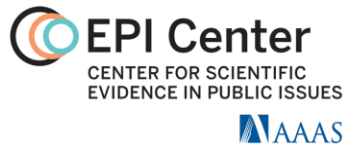
David J. Hayes is a Special Assistant to the President for Climate Policy. He is a senior member of National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy's White House team, which is advancing the Biden administration's climate, conservation, and clean energy priorities. Immediately prior to joining the White House, Hayes was Executive Director of the State Energy & Environmental Impact Center at the NYU School of Law, where he worked with state attorneys general on climate, environmental and clean energy initiatives. He previously served as Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer at the U.S. Department of the Interior for Presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton. He was a climate policy advisor for the Biden-Harris Transition in 2020, and led the energy and environmental agency review teams for the Obama-Biden Transition in 2008. Hayes is a former Distinguished Visiting Lecturer at the Stanford Law School; a former Fellow at Stanford University's Precourt Institute for Energy and Woods Institute for the Environment; and the former Chairman of the Board of the Environmental Law Institute. Hayes is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and Stanford Law School.

Matt Johnson, Branch Chief, Green Infrastructure Incentives and Assessment Branch, District of Columbia Department of Energy & Environment

Matt Johnson is a Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist with the District of Columbia's Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE). As Chief of DOEE's Green Infrastructure Incentives and assessment Branch, Matt leads the development, implementation, and adaptive management of financial incentive programs catalyzing the installation of runoff-reducing GI in the District. These innovative programs include the Stormwater Retention Credit (SRC) Trading Program, a first-of-its-kind stormwater retention trading program, SRC Price Lock Program, an innovative GI financing program to leverage private investment in GI in priority areas and maximize benefits to District waterbodies, and the RiverSmart Rewards Program, a stormwater impervious fee discount program.

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Jeffrey King, Deputy National Lead and Program Manager, Engineering With Nature® Program, US Army Corps of Engineers

Jeff King serves as Program Manager and Deputy National Lead for the US Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Engineering With Nature® (EWN®) Program. In addition to leading and managing a broad array of EWN activities and collaborative efforts, Jeff is also advancing R&D projects within the EWN portfolio. Current projects and research interest include: incorporation of EWN techniques/designs into traditional infrastructure; design and application of natural and nature-based features (NNBF); promoting landscape architecture concepts/practices in pursuit of nature-based solutions; and fostering collaborative partnerships to achieve innovative outcomes that are aligned with elements of the EWN Initiative.

Krystal Laymon, Deputy Director for Climate Resilience, White House Council on Environmental Quality

Krystal Laymon specializes in climate, resilience, and energy policy. She currently serves as the Deputy Director for Climate Resilience at the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Previously, she managed a team at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) supporting disaster recovery and adaptation efforts. In addition, Krystal had served as a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) policy advisor supporting community resilience and equity strategies, and leading interagency coordination.

Samantha Rachko, Life Scientist and a Grants Project Officer, State and Watershed Partnerships Section, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3

Samantha Rachko is a Life Scientist and a Grants Project Officer at EPA Region 3 in the State and Watershed Partnerships Section. She has been with EPA for the past 6 years. Ms. Rachko has a B.S. in Environmental Science from Drexel University and a Master of Science in both Environmental Policy and Public Communication, also from Drexel University. Her focus at EPA Region 3 is green infrastructure, managing state grants, and science communication.