

Environmental Law Institute webinar – Protecting Wetlands: The Role of Local Government

Speaker Biographies

Lisa Fraley-McNeal

Lisa is a Senior Watershed and Stormwater Research Specialist at the Center for Watershed Protection with over 20 years of experience. Her areas of expertise include GIS and field methods for watershed assessment, watershed planning, stream restoration, TMDL compliance, and applied research on topics related to watershed and stormwater management. Lisa has a B.S. degree in Geography and Environmental Systems, a M.S. degree from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in Marine and Estuarine Environmental Science, and a graduate GIS Certification from NC State University. She currently lives in Summerville, SC and in her free time enjoys exploring the Lowcountry.

Rebecca Kihslinger

Dr. Rebecca Kihslinger is the Senior Science and Policy Analyst at the Environmental Law Institute and Director of ELI's Wetlands Program. Rebecca conducts research on local, state, and federal wetlands law, policy, and management. She has led multiple projects on compensatory mitigation policy and practice, including studies focused on the state of stream compensatory mitigation, improving compensatory mitigation project review, and in-lieu fee implementation across the country. Rebecca also leads ELI's work on climate resilience and hazard mitigation. Her work is focused on advancing nature-based solutions by promoting partnerships among natural resource agencies and organizations and hazard mitigation planners and building the capacity of communities to identify risks and vulnerabilities, plan for the future, and develop projects that build resilience and meet local needs. Dr. Kihslinger earned a PhD in Animal Behavior from University of California, Davis and a BS in marine science from the University of South Carolina, Honors College.

Beth Lewis

Beth Lewis serves as Bluffton's Watershed Resilience Manager, leading efforts to protect local watersheds and advance the town's Comprehensive Plan, Strategic Plans, and May River Watershed Action Plan. Currently, she is spearheading several key resilience initiatives. Beth holds a BS in Marine Biology from the College of Charleston and brings nearly twenty years of public-sector experience spanning aquaculture, recycling, and stormwater management. She is dedicated to safeguarding Bluffton's resources and strengthening community resilience.

Andrea Moreno

Andrea Moreno is a dedicated environmental professional overseeing the Watershed Management Division with the Town of Bluffton, where she has worked for over 10 years. She ensures compliance with local, state and federal stormwater regulations, leads operational initiatives, and drives sustainable solutions across municipal systems. Passionate about stormwater management and community resilience, Andrea combines technical expertise with a commitment to public service.

Emily Poole

Emily Poole is an attorney at the South Carolina Environmental Law Project, or SCELPE, in Greenville, SC. She received her Bachelor's Degree from Mercer University in 2019, graduating summa cum laude and as a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Emily then went on to law school and graduate school at the University of Tennessee, where she pursued a Juris Doctor (JD) and Master of Public Policy (MPP) dual-degree. After she graduated summa cum laude with both degrees in 2022, she passed the bar exam, and became a practicing attorney at SCELPE, where she has worked for three years. With a combined focus on law and policy, Emily litigates cases, investigates issues, leads SCELPE's policy work, and advocates alongside partner organizations and citizen groups for South Carolina's environment and communities.

Amy Reed

Amy Reed is a Senior Attorney at the Environmental Law Institute. She first joined ELI as a law clerk in 2012, then returned as a Staff Attorney in 2016. In 2021 she was promoted to Senior Attorney. She works primarily on domestic law and policy topics, focusing on ocean and coastal protection and restoration, advancing natural infrastructure solutions, and cooperative federalism and intergovernmental coordination. Amy also works with the Institute's Indoor Environments and Green Buildings Program to strengthen policies and programs to reduce indoor air risks. Prior to joining ELI, Amy clerked for Ventura Coastkeeper in California and worked in Ecuador on a campaign to clean up oil pollution in the Amazon basin. Amy graduated magna cum laude from Duke University with a B.A. in Spanish and holds a J.D. from UCLA School of Law.