

Presenters at the National Watershed Coalition Virtual National Meeting November 16-17, 2021.

Jimmy Bramblett



Jimmy Bramblett is the Deputy Chief for Programs with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). In this role, he is responsible for developing policies and procedures to invest the agency's 4-billion dollars of technical and financial resources in a customer service oriented and scientifically defensible manner. He has also served as the Deputy Chief for Science and Technology (S&T), the Wisconsin State Conservationist, and his tenure included a 10-year period as a faculty research scientist at The University of Georgia.

Sam Lashley



Sam Lashley is the Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) with the National Weather Service Indianapolis office. As the Indianapolis WCM, Sam is responsible for maintaining close working relationships with core partners, supporting emergency management officials with Impact-Based Decision Support Services, and spreading weather safety and preparedness information through public outreach and engagement. Sam has been studying drought, heavy rain events and trends across Indiana since the early 2000s and is excited to share this information with planners and decision makers.

Christi Fisher, P.E. **ND State Conservation Engineer** **USDA-NRCS**



Christi Fisher has been the State Conservation Engineer and Watershed Program Manager for the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in North Dakota since 2013. ND NRCS is currently engaged in She has over 30 years of experience as a project engineer on water resource projects involving irrigation, river restoration, riverbank protection, fish passage, and wetland restoration Montana, Oregon, Washington, and North Dakota. She completed a B.S. in Forest Engineering at the University of Washington in 1990 and is currently finishing up a M.S. in Environmental Science at Montana State University

Zach Herrmann, P.E.



Zach Herrmann is a Project Manager and Principal with Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI) who specializes in assisting water resource districts to identify, establish strategies for, and implement water management solutions throughout the upper midwest. Zach has considerable experience in watershed planning and project development. As a recognized leader in water management within the Red River Basin, Zach has led several Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) small watershed planning efforts. Many of these efforts are focused on development of new flood retention structures as well as the rehabilitation of high hazard dams. Zach's role in these efforts includes project coordination and outreach, engineering and technical considerations, and quantification of environmental impacts of proposed alternatives. He completed his B.S. in Civil Engineering from North Dakota State University in 2008 and has focused his career on water management issues in the Red River Basin.

Kate Sharpe, AICP, ENV-SP
Senior Economist
Gannett Fleming, Inc.



Kate Sharpe is a senior economist at Gannett Fleming, Inc. with 20 years of experience performing benefit-cost analyses for watershed planning projects. Kate is an expert in flood damage modeling and has completed flood damage assessments for more than 30 dams across the United States. At Gannett Fleming, she is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) group manager in Pennsylvania directing technical analyses in support of NEPA compliance for federal, state, and local clients. Kate completed a master's degree in Applied Economics and Environmental Management at Cornell University in 2003.

J. Chris Stoner, P.E.
State Conservation Engineer
USDA-NRCS
Stillwater, Oklahoma



J. Chris Stoner is a registered professional engineer in Oklahoma and Texas and currently serves as State Conservation Engineer for the Oklahoma Natural Resources Conservation Service. Chris has over 37 years of experience with NRCS in many parts of west and south Texas and the entire state of Oklahoma. Chris became State Conservation Engineer in 2007 and was immediately thrust into the watershed program with severe storm events and the near failure of two dams within his first year in that position. During his tenure, Chris has overseen the rehabilitation of 26 flood control dams. Chris is a 1987 graduate of Texas A&M University with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering and is an active member in the Association of State Dam Safety Officials, the American Society of Biological and Agricultural Engineers, and the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

Kevin Farmer
Team Leader for the USDA-NRCS National Watershed Programs Team in Washington, DC.



As the Team Leader, Kevin provides overall leadership, strategic direction and coordination of the Emergency Watershed Protection Program, Watershed Rehabilitation Program, Watershed Protection & Flood Prevention Operations Program and other watershed related activities. Kevin is also responsible for watershed policy development and implementation.

Kevin is a graduate of Florida A&M University with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Biological & Agricultural Systems Engineering.

He has over 18 years of service and experience managing watershed activities for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program, Watershed Rehabilitation Program, Watershed Operations Program, and other watershed planning programs.

Kevin has held several positions within the NRCS including, National Watershed Rehabilitation Program Manager, Acting Watershed Rehabilitation Program Coordinator, State Conservation Engineer for NRCS-Rhode Island, State Construction Engineer for NRCS-Georgia, Wetland Team Leader for NRCS-California, and Civil Engineer for NRCS-Minnesota.

Kevin is a licensed Professional Engineer. He is a graduate of the 2010 NRCS National Leadership Development Program. He is also a graduate of the 2015 NRCS Strategic Leaders Development Program.

Margi Hoffmann

Strategic Operations Director for the Farmers Conservation Alliance



Margi is the strategic operations director for the Farmers Conservation Alliance, or FCA. FCA is a 501 c 3 non-profit that works with irrigators throughout the western United States to help them modernize their systems for the benefit of food, farms and fish. Margi works across all of the different districts to develop modernization strategies and pathways to financing and permitting irrigation projects. Prior to FCA, Margi served as a policy advisor for two Governors in the state of Oregon. She has worked on natural resources, water, climate, and energy issues for the last fifteen years in the Western United States.

Panel Discussion: Beyond O&M: Addressing the Emerging Issue of Remedial and Repair Work

Trey Lam, Executive Director, Oklahoma Conservation Commission

Brian Farkas, Executive Director, West Virginia Conservation Agency

Mark Gilbert, Former Executive Director, Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Kevin Burns, County Commission, Wise County, Texas

Steve Bednarz, Senior Engineer, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

Climate Panel: NACD Climate Committee

Cindy Lair, Teyf

Jimmy Emmons, Soil Health Mentor, Oklahoma Conservation Commission

There are other speakers on the program not listed above