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2015, Show Me the Money: The Economic  
Realities of Responding to Coastal Change and  
Adaptation in Virginia

Virginia Coastal Policy Center Annual  
Conference

11-13-2015

### Dignitary and Speaker Biographies

Virginia Coastal Policy Center, William & Mary Law School

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## SHOW ME THE MONEY

The Economic Realities  
of Responding to Coastal Change and Adaption in Virginia  
Friday, NOVEMBER 13, 2015

## DIGNITARIES



### The Honorable Ralph Northam-- Lieutenant Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia

Ralph Northam grew up on the Eastern Shore, working on the Chesapeake Bay, before attending Virginia Military Institute where he graduated with distinction and was President of the Honor Court. After then graduating from Eastern Virginia Medical School, Ralph served eight years active duty in the United States Army, rising to the rank of Major. Upon his return from treating soldiers injured in Desert Storm, Ralph began practicing pediatric neurology at Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters in Norfolk. Ralph also serves as Assistant Professor of Neurology at Eastern Virginia Medical School and has seventeen years of volunteer service as Medical Director for the Edmarc Hospice for Children in Portsmouth.

As a State Senator from 2008-2013, Ralph scored numerous major legislative accomplishments, including the prohibition on smoking in restaurants, protecting young athletes who have sustained concussions, improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay, and shielding our first responders from communicable diseases.

Elected Lieutenant Governor on November 5, 2013, Ralph's top priorities are economic development, strengthening early childhood education, implementing meaningful mental health reform, protecting women's health care access, and carefully stewarding the Commonwealth's environmental resources.



### The Honorable Lynwood Lewis—Virginia Senator (6<sup>th</sup> District)

Lynwood Lewis graduated from Hampden-Sydney College in 1984 with a BA in History and Political Science and went on to receive his JD from the University of Richmond. Lewis continues the general practice of law in Accomac, Virginia, as a partner of the firm of Custis, Dix, Lewis & Custis, L.L.P.

Lewis was named the 2013 Outstanding Citizen of the Year by the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce. He has been named numerous times a Legislative Hero or Leader by the League of Conservation Voters, and in 2012 and 2013 he was awarded the Distinguished Advocate for Virginia Business by the Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

First elected to the House of Delegates in 2003, Lewis served, while in the House, on the Chesapeake Bay Commission, the Governor's Aerospace Advisory Council, and on the Health Insurance Reform Commission.

In January of 2014, he was elected to the Virginia Senate from the 6<sup>th</sup> District. Senator Lewis sits on the Committees of Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources, Local Government, and Education and Health. He serves as Co-Chair of the Tourism Caucus in the General Assembly and has been appointed to both the Joint

Subcommittee to Formulate Recommendations to Address Recurrent Flooding and the Modeling and Simulation Advisory Council.



### **The Honorable Gina McCarthy—US EPA Administrator**

Appointed by President Obama in 2009 as Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation, Gina McCarthy has been a leading advocate for common-sense strategies to protect public health and the environment.

Previously, McCarthy served as the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. During her career, which spans over thirty years, she has worked at both the state and local levels on critical environmental issues and helped coordinate policies on economic growth, energy, transportation and the environment.

McCarthy received a Bachelor of Arts in Social Anthropology from the University of Massachusetts at Boston and a joint Master of Science in Environmental Health Engineering and Planning and Policy from Tufts University.

When she is not in D.C., McCarthy lives in the Greater Boston area with her husband and dog, just a short bike ride away from their three children, Daniel, Maggie, and Julie.

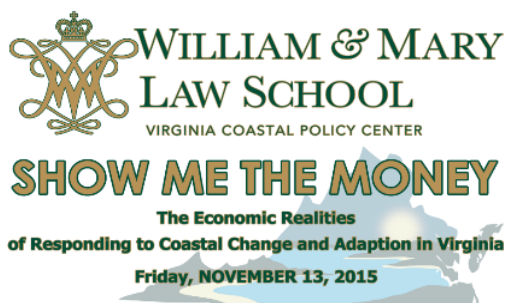


### **The Honorable Rob Wittman—US Congressman (VA-1)**

Rob Wittman was elected to represent Virginia's First Congressional District in December 2007 and is currently serving his fourth full term in the House of Representatives. He serves on the House Armed Services Committee, where he is Chairman of the Readiness Subcommittee, and the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Since taking office, Rob has earned a reputation for being an advocate for our men and women in uniform and for being a champion of the Chesapeake Bay. Prior to his election to Congress, Rob spent 26 years in state government as a public health specialist. He also served as mayor of the town of Montross, chairman of the Westmoreland County Board of Supervisors and delegate for the 99th Legislative District in the Virginia General Assembly.

Rob holds a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University, a Master of Public Health degree in Healthy Policy and Administration from the University of North Carolina, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Virginia Tech.



## SPEAKERS

### **Stephanie Hamlett, Esq.—Executive Director, Virginia Resources Authority**

Stephanie L. Hamlett has served as the Executive Director of the Virginia Resources Authority since July 2010. She has also served in a number of positions at the Office of the Attorney General where she was counsel to a variety of state agencies, including the Virginia Port Authority, the Virginia Public Building Authority and the Virginia Economic Development Authority.

Prior to that, Stephanie served as staff counsel to the House Finance Committee and the House Appropriations Committee of the Virginia General Assembly. Stephanie also has private practice experience in public finance, having practiced at McGuire Woods. In addition to a law degree from the University of Richmond, Stephanie holds a Masters of Tax Law from William & Mary.

### **Neal Menkes—Director of Fiscal Policy, Virginia Municipal League**

Neal Menkes joined VML as director of fiscal policy in 2007. He worked for the 14 previous years as a legislative fiscal analyst for the Senate Finance Committee where he was responsible for issues related to transportation, economic development and natural resources. He also worked 14 years for the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget. At VML, he researches and analyzes issues related to state and local finance, including tax matters. During General Assembly sessions, he follows the actions of the House Appropriations, House Finance and Senate Finance committees. He holds a bachelor's degree from Emory University in Atlanta and a master's degree in public administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University.

### **Christopher Thompson—Deputy Director of Housing, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development**

Chris Thompson is the Deputy Director for the Housing Division at the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. Chris works to provide management and leadership for an array of housing and homeless service programs, with an emphasis on homeownership, rental housing, housing preservation, and meeting the housing requirements of special needs populations. Prior to this he served as the Associate Director for the agency's Community Development Policy Office, assisting local governments, non-profits and other organizations to help assess and address a wide range of community and economic development needs, with a particular focus on working with rural communities. Chris joined DHCD in 2000, following several years working for a government consulting firm.

### **Sarah Frey—Financial Advisor, the PFM Group**

Sarah Frey is a Director at The PFM Group's Arlington office. Since 2002, she has provided financial advisory services to clients throughout Virginia. Sarah assists many local governments and water and/or sewer utilities in financial planning and the execution of bond transactions. Identification and evaluation of financing alternatives and restructuring opportunities, management of debt transactions, preparation of disclosure documents, development of credit presentations and development of debt policies are all part of Sarah's day-to-day responsibilities. She also assists with debt issuances for a variety of credit structures such as general obligation bonds, lease revenue bonds, water and sewer revenue bonds, parking revenue bonds and seaport revenue bonds.

### **Roland Kooch—Financial Advisor, Davenport & Company**

Ronald Kooch has worked in the municipal finance industry since 1993 and has served as Financial Advisor to public sector clients for nearly twenty-two years. During his career, he has focused on credits in the Mid-Atlantic with particular emphasis on general obligation issuers, complex revenue credits, financial policy analysis and design, economic development projects, capital planning, and budget analysis. Ronald also specializes in designing and constructing financial pro-formas, as well as debt capacity, budget projection and other cash flow models. He received his degree in accounting from Georgetown University.

### **Ron Williams—Deputy City Manager, City of Norfolk**

Ron Williams has served as Norfolk's Deputy City Manager since 2012, where his area of oversight includes Planning and Infrastructure. Among other initiatives, Ron is the project lead for the City's Coastal Resiliency Strategy. Between 2002 and 2010, he also served the city as Budget & Grants Management, Special Assistant to the City Manager and Director of Intergovernmental Relations.

Ron also has significant private sector experience as a Senior Project Manager with Architectural Graphics, Inc., a national leader in signage manufacturing. Other executive management experience includes the positions of Vice President of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce and Administrator of the Virginia Maritime Association. He served in the United States Marine Corps Reserves from 1992-1998. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from the Virginia Military Institute and an MBA from the Regent University School of Business.

#### **Matthew Wall—Hazard Mitigation Officer, Virginia Department of Emergency Management**

Matthew Wall has a work history with over thirty-five years of public service. This includes twenty-six years in the Richmond Fire Department where he retired as a Captain, and one year with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development working in the Weatherization Assistance Program. In 2007, he was hired by Virginia Department of Emergency Management to assist localities with mitigation projects. In January of 2010 he became the State Hazard Mitigation Officer for Virginia. He has his Bachelor of Science in Urban Studies and his Master's in Urban and Regional Planning, both from VCU. He served on the Executive Board for the Virginia State Animal Response Team and is currently serving on the Virginia Floodplain Management Association Board.

#### **Joseph Maroon—Executive Director, Virginia Environmental Endowment**

Joe Maroon has served as the second Executive Director of the Virginia Environmental Endowment since May 2013. Based in Richmond, VEE is a leading independent grant-making foundation established in 1977 whose purpose is to improve the quality of the environment in Virginia and in the Kanawha and Ohio River Valleys of West Virginia and Kentucky. To date, VEE has made more than 1,200 grants resulting in over \$77 million in environmental investments. For more information about VEE visit [vee.org](http://vee.org).

Joe has over 30 years of experience in senior leadership positions with legislative, executive branch and private conservation organizations. His previous experience includes gubernatorial appointments as the agency director for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (2002-2010), serving as the first Virginia Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (1985-2002) and as a project director and staff analyst for the Virginia Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC; 1978-1985). From 2010 to 2013, he operated his own environmental consulting practice. He also teaches graduate level courses in environmental policy as an adjunct faculty member at UVA and Virginia Tech. He has served on numerous boards and commissions and has received several awards including the 2000 Outstanding Environmental Leader Award in Virginia presented at VMI, the 2009 McCarthy Award for Environmental Conflict Resolution from UVA, and the Virginia Water Resources Leadership Award in 2006 from Virginia Tech. In 2010, the Virginia General Assembly passed a commending resolution honoring him for his career and contributions. Maroon has a Bachelor's and Master's Degree from Virginia Tech.

#### **Jim Gebhardt—Senior Advisor to the US EPA Deputy for Water, US EPA Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center**

Jim Gebhardt was appointed Director on September 30. Previously, he served as Senior Advisor to the Deputy Administrator for Water Finance. Jim has over thirty years of experience in the public finance, bond insurance and investment management businesses including over twenty years as Chief Financial Officer of the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation ("EFC"). He was responsible for overseeing the Corporation's financing and investment activities, including those related to the multi-billion dollar local government focused New York State Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Funds (the "SRFs"). Critical management responsibilities included setting strategic direction for these programs, particularly in the areas of financing, investment, policy development and management. During his tenure Jim successfully managed eighty-five SRF bond financings, totaling \$13 billion that financed approximately 1800 projects for more than 350 NYS local governments and public authorities.

#### **Walton C. Shepherd, Esq.—Staff Attorney, Energy & Transportation Program, Natural Resources Defense Council; Member, Virginia Climate Change and Resiliency Update Commission**

Walton C. Shepherd is a staff attorney and policy advocate in the Energy & Transportation department, focusing on state-level implementation of energy efficiency policy and carbon pollution standards. Prior to joining NRDC, Walton worked in his native state of West Virginia on energy and efficiency policy, economic transition, and renewable energy development. He also previously worked as an English teacher and in the book publishing industry. Walton is a graduate of the WVU College of Law and holds an MBA from the WVU College of Business and Economics, and a bachelor's degree from Hamilton College.

#### **Troy Hartley—Director, Virginia Sea Grant Program**

Troy Hartley is the Director of Virginia Sea Grant and Research Associate Professor of marine policy. His interests are in governance networks, their structure and function, and the application of governance networks in coastal and marine resource management, climate adaptation and resilience, and collaborative, multi-stakeholder decision-making. Further, he is interested in the broader applications of social science to improve governance, management and policy, stakeholder engagement, and



collaborative research. Troy serves on the Virginia Coastal Policy Team, Board on Oceans, Atmosphere, and Climate with the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities, and the Legal Network of the Sea Grant Association. Troy spent three years working on brownfields redevelopment, affordable housing development, and environmental justice in Detroit; he served on the board of directors for Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice.

### **Jalonne White-Newsome, Ph. D.—Director of Federal Policy, WE ACT**

Environmental justice & public health has been a constant thread throughout the life of Dr. Jalonne L. White-Newsome. From her work in private industry, government, academia and in a non-profit capacity, she has been driven by the desire to advocate for everyone's right to a live and work in a safe, healthy environment.

Jalonne completed her Bachelor's degree in chemical engineering with a specialization in journalism at Northwestern University, where she authored a front page article uncovering the pollution and health concerns on the south side of Chicago. In her capacity as a professional engineer, Jalonne was recognized for consistently making sustainability and environmental stewardship as a part of her everyday workflow, while working part-time on her Masters in Environmental Engineering at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. She ventured back to academia, attaining her doctorate at the University Of Michigan School Of Public Health, focusing her research and outreach on climate justice by empowering impacted populations through the creation of plans and tools to build sustainable communities.

Currently, Jalonne is the Director of Federal Policy for WE ACT for Environmental Justice in their Washington DC Office, the only environmental justice lobbyist on Capitol Hill, where she is focused on ensuring that low income, communities of color have a voice in shaping federal environmental policy. Jalonne is the National Coordinator for the Environmental Justice Leadership Forum on Climate Change, a national coalition of 42 environmental justice organizations, spanning 19 states. Particularly her leadership has contributed significantly to ensuring that the Environmental Protection Agency's recently released Clean Power Plan makes environmental justice a priority, and she is hopeful that serving on the Virginia DEQs Clean Power Plan Stakeholders Group will make this a reality for the Commonwealth as well.

Jalonne is focused on engaging the next generation, particularly young women of color to consider STEM careers and demand the right to live in a healthy, clean environment. This busy mom of two wonderful daughters is also an adjunct professor at The George Washington University and Kettering University, serves as the Co-Chair of the EPA's Federal Advisory Committee on Urban Air Toxics, on the Boards of US Climate Action Network and the Prince William County Wetlands Board, The Women's Council on Energy. When not championing the environment, Jalonne enjoys teaching Sunday school at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia or volunteering with Girl Scouts of America.

### **Vernice Miller-Travis—Senior Associate, Skeo Solutions**

Vernice Miller-Travis is a Senior Associate in the Community Planning and Design Group of Skeo Solutions. She targets her efforts to communities that have undergone economic disinvestment and environmental degradation to facilitate and implement community revitalization and sustainable redevelopment initiatives and projects. Her projects focus on sustainable community planning and design, environmental law, regulation and policy, sustainable land-use planning, brownfields revitalization and equitable redevelopment, hazardous waste abatement and clean-up, toxic air emissions reduction, green space design and development, healthy indoor and outdoor school environments, and green job development. She served as a principal co-author of the report *Now is the Time: Environmental Injustice in the U.S.* and recommendations for eliminating disparities published by the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in June, 2010.

Prior to joining Skeo Solutions, Ms. Miller-Travis served as the Director of the Environmental Justice Initiative of the Natural Resources Defense Council, a Program Officer at the Ford Foundation, Executive Director of Groundwork USA, and co-founder of We ACT for Environmental Justice. She also serves on the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council to EPA, and as Vice-Chair of the Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities.

### **Skip Stiles—Executive Director, Wetlands Watch**

William A. (Skip) Stiles, Jr. is executive director of Wetlands Watch, a statewide nonprofit environmental group based in Norfolk, VA. In this position he has been involved in sea level rise adaptation work at the community level for over 8 years. Prior to his current position, starting in 1998, Mr. Stiles was an independent consultant, providing editorial and public policy services to a number of clients on issues related to science, the environment, and public policy. A partial list of his clients includes: the White House Office of Science Policy, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Pew Center on Agricultural Biotechnology, RAND Corporation, and the National Academy of Sciences.

Before that, Mr. Stiles served 22 years in Congress in a variety of senior staff positions – as chief of staff for Congressman George E. Brown, Jr. of California, House Agriculture subcommittee staff director, and Legislative Director for the House Science Committee. He served on the Virginia Climate Change Commission in 2008. He is a board member of the Virginia Conservation Network (a statewide coalition of 120+ environmental groups). Together with his oceanographer wife, Dr. Margaret Mulholland, he teaches a graduate class in public policy at Old Dominion University. He lives in Norfolk, VA, and is a graduate of the College of William and Mary.

### **Lewis L. Lawrence, III—Executive Director, Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission**

Lewis L. Lawrence serves as the Executive Director for the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission as well as Secretary and lead planner for the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority. Lewie coordinates and oversees all agency planning activities for the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission. These include: policy analysis, agency budgeting, environmental, economic, land use, social assistance, and transportation planning areas. Lewie is agency lead for research, review and analysis of federal, state and local regulations and policies.

Lewie coordinates planning and administrative affairs for the Authority. The PAA is a unique special purpose political subdivision enabled by the Virginia General Assembly to address public water access issues across the Middle Peninsula. The PAA has established itself as a regional, state and national leader in addressing public access issues.

### **Meg Pittenger—Environmental Manager, City of Portsmouth**

Meg Pittenger is the Environmental Manager for the City of Portsmouth. She oversees the Floodplain Management program for the city. In her recent work with the city, she has updated the City's Floodplain Management Plan which includes adaptation and mitigation strategies for the city to deal with recurrent flooding and sea level rise; created a Program for Public Information Program (PPI) for flood information public outreach; and implemented programs which (we hope) have led to the city getting an increase its class rating in the NFIP's Community Rating System.

She has worked for the City of Portsmouth in various capacities for 28 years. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Old Dominion University. And is a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM). As a side note, she frequently consults with her father, who was formerly the Oceanographer of the Navy, on matters of sea level rise and climate change.

### **Ellen Roberts—City Engineer, city of Poquoson**

Ellen Roberts has been an engineer for over 30 years, working primarily in the areas of stormwater, site design and environmental engineering. She has worked in both the private and public sectors. Past work includes landfill, water treatment and dechlorination facility designs; site engineering for planned communities; and many stormwater projects. She has been the City Engineer in Poquoson for the past five years.

Mrs. Roberts grew up on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and has lived in Virginia since 1985. She, her husband and their three daughters are all graduates of Virginia Tech.