



Vermont Environmental Consortium Presents:

Charting a Path to Successful Farms and Clean Water in Vermont

March 26, 2012, Middlebury College, McCardell Bicentennial Hall, Middlebury, Vermont

Speaker Bios

Jill Michaels

President, Vermont Environmental Consortium

Jill Michaels, Principal of Community Investments (CI), is the President of the Vermont Environmental Consortium. CI is an economic development consulting firm serving businesses, municipalities, and nonprofits primarily in Northern New England, providing assistance in business recruitment and development, financial packaging, economic development planning and fundraising.

Chuck Ross

Secretary of Agriculture, Food, & Markets

Chuck Ross was appointed as the Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets by Governor Peter Shumlin and took office in January of 2011. Prior to his current role as Secretary, he served as U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy's State Director for 16 years. Before joining Leahy's staff, Ross was a farmer and legislator from Hinesburg, Vermont. Ross is currently the Chair of the Sustainable Ag Council, Chair of the Farm Viability Advisory Board, a member of Vermont Housing Conservation Board, a member of the Vermont Council on Rural Development, and serves on the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund's Farm to Plate Steering Committee. Born in Burlington, Vermont, he graduated from the University of Vermont with a B.A. in Geography in 1978 and from the University of Washington with an M.A. in Geography in 1982. Ross is married with three children and lives in Hinesburg, Vermont.

David Mears

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation

David K. Mears was appointed Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation by Governor Shumlin in January 2011. Commissioner Mears has held a number of positions in state and federal government including positions in Texas as an Enforcement Coordinator in the Texas Water Commission, Assistant Attorney General in the Texas Office of the Attorney General, and Senior Attorney for Water Quality with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission. He left Texas to serve as the Energy and Environmental Policy Director with the Texas Office for State-Federal Relations in Washington, DC, then served both as a Trial Attorney and Counselor for State and Local Affairs with the U.S. Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division. Immediately prior to his appointment as Commissioner, Mears was a Professor of Law at Vermont Law School, a U.S. Fulbright Scholar in China, and Director of the law school's environmental and land use law clinics. Commissioner Mears has a degree in environmental engineering technology from Cornell University, and Juris Doctor and Masters of Environmental Law and Policy degrees from Vermont Law School.

Roger Allbee

Former Secretary of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Roger Allbee is a former Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets for Vermont. He has extensive experience in agriculture and agricultural policy. He has been Executive Director of USDA Farm Service Agency for Vermont, a member of the Senior staff of the former Farm Credit Banks for the Northeast, and a staff member of the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture where he specialized in dairy and soil and water conservation policies. He is a recipient of an Honor Award from the Soil Conservation Society of America.

Dr. Thomas Vogelmann

Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, University of Vermont

Dr. Thomas C. Vogelmann became Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Director of the Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Vermont (UVM) in 2009. A graduate of Syracuse University (Ph.D.), Washington State University (M.S.) and the University of Vermont (B.S.), Dr. Vogelmann worked for eighteen years at the University of Wyoming. Dr. Vogelmann specializes in plant physiology and has published more than eighty scientific papers in refereed journals, books, and technical proceedings on photosynthesis and plant growth and development. He has a distinguished career as an accomplished researcher, educator, and administrator.

Adam Lougee

Director, Addison County Regional Planning Commissioner

Regional Planning Commission, a position he has held for 12 years. Prior to working Adam Lougee, Esq. currently serves as the Executive Director of the Addison County with the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, Adam practiced law in Burlington and South Burlington in the areas of real estate and corporate transactions and served as the Vice President of the Bolton Valley Corporation where he managed the resorts permitting requirements and infrastructure needs. Adam is a graduate of Washington and Jefferson College and Cornell Law School. His areas of interests at the regional planning commission include energy planning, zoning, land use permitting and housing.

Don Meals

Ice.Nine Environmental Consulting

Don Meals has more than 30 years of experience in agricultural nonpoint source pollution, evaluation of BMP effectiveness, and watershed management. He has worked throughout the United States on NPS issues, focusing on evaluation of watershed-scale response to changes in agricultural management. In Vermont, Mr. Meals has conducted evaluations of the water quality effects of innovative manure and livestock management, research on how streams process phosphorus, studies of pathogen losses from agricultural land, and identification of critical source areas of NPS phosphorus.

Jennifer Reed-Harry

Penn-Ag Industries Association

Jennifer Reed-Harry has been following environmental regulations and legislation for the past 20 years with a watchful eye for how it will impact the livelihood of Pennsylvania farmers and agribusiness. Jennifer works as a registered lobbyist for PennAg Industries Association based in Harrisburg, PA. PennAg Industries Association is an agriculture trade association with more than 600 business members and has been in existence since 1878.

Craig Ferris, Ph.D.

North Atlantic Regional Biologist, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Craig Ferris is a wildlife biologist who has been with Ducks Unlimited for 18 years. He currently serves as Regional Biologist for the North Atlantic Flyway, delivering DU's conservation programs in New York and New England. He will speak on DU's approach to delivering wetland habitat protection and restoration on private lands.

Julie Moore

Group Leader, Water Resource Management, Stone Environmental

Julie Moore is the leader of the Water Resources Management Group at Stone Environmental in Montpelier. Julie has led the successful implementation of a variety of projects related to stormwater management, agricultural stewardship, and riparian corridor protection. Prior to joining Stone, Julie worked for the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources where she was the director of the Clean & Clear Program. As such, she managed the state's efforts to implement the TMDL (total maximum daily load) for phosphorus pollution in Lake Champlain. Julie is a registered professional engineer in Vermont.

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Chris Koliba

Associate Professor, University of Vermont

Christopher Koliba is an Associate Professor in the Community Development and Applied Economics Department at the University of Vermont (UVM) and the Director of the Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program. He possesses a Ph.D. and an MPA from Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. His current research program focuses on the development of complex adaptive systems models of regional planning, watershed governance, food systems, transportation planning, and smart grid energy networks. Chris teaches courses pertaining to public policy and public affairs, public administration, systems analysis, governance networks, collaborative management, and the intersection of science and society.

Vicky Drew

State Conservationist, USDA NRCS

Vicky Drew has worked for the Natural Resources Conservation Service since 1983, working in Georgia and Rhode Island before transferring to Vermont in the fall of 2006. She was appointed State Conservationist for Vermont in June, 2010. She grew up in the desert southwest, and graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Georgia with a BS in Agronomy in 1985. She now resides in Georgia, VT with her husband and 9 year old daughter.

Amanda Gervais

Crops and Soils Technician, UVM Extension

Amanda Gervais has been working with farmers in Northwestern Vermont for the past 10 years. Currently she is working for UVM Extension's Crops and Soils program on water quality, nutrient management, cover crops and reduced tillage projects.

Marli Rupe

District Manager, Poultney Mettowee Conservation District

Marli Rupe is the District Manager for the Poultney Mettowee Conservation District, one of 14 in VT, located in the South Lake basin of Lake Champlain. Marli has worked with the District for 13 years, after being a Dairy Specialist with UVM Extension System. She has a BS from UVM in Animal Sciences and an MS from Green Mountain College in Environmental Sciences.

Kent Henderson, DVM

Kent serves as the Chair of the Friends of Northern Lake Champlain and Vice Chair of the Georgia Conservation Commission. He graduated from Iowa State University in 1974 and currently is the President and business manager of Northwest Veterinary Associates, Inc., a six person dairy exclusive veterinary practice serving NW Vermont and Clinton Co., NY. He has been married to his wife April for 37 yrs, they have two children and one grandson. Kent's hobbies include Black Walnut grove culture.

Victor A. Guadagno

Bloom Producer, Bright Blue EcoMedia

Victor Guadagno, the founding member of Bright Blue EcoMedia, has been active in the fields of film production, education, communication, systems design and program management for over 20 years. With a degree in industrial engineering / information Systems (BS, Northeastern University) his knowledge is rooted in systems thinking. He has received four Emmy nominations and was awarded the New England Emmy in 2009 for Writer Producer of New Media for his work on the television series "Emerging Science", and in 2010 for Outstanding Environmental Program for the film "Bloom, the Plight of Lake Champlain".

Jeffrey Nelson

Director of Energy & Environmental Services, VHB

Mr. Nelson serves as the Director of Energy & Environmental Services in VHB's North Ferrisburgh, Vermont office and brings 28 years of unparalleled experience in the Vermont environmental consulting field. He

provides overall management and strategic planning for a wide range of environmental service projects that the firm conducts, including the development and management of several watershed-wide water quality remediation and management plans in Vermont which have successfully resulting in restoration of water quality. Mr. Nelson works regularly with Vermont ANR and USACE personnel on projects involving wetland/stream assessment, impact analysis, and permitting as well as stormwater management/best management practices design, implementation, and monitoring.

Kylie Quesnel
Perry Brook Farm, Shoreham, VT

Buzz Hoerr
CEO, ElectroCell Technologies, Inc.

Buzz has chaired the Vermont Citizens Advisory Committee on the Future of Lake Champlain for many years. In addition, he chairs the Lake Champlain Basin Program's Education and Outreach Committee, and is a founding board member of ECHO at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. He is majority owner of ElectroCell Technologies, Inc., a Colchester based company that provides treatment services for a variety of liquid wastes in agriculture, wastewater treatment and food processing.

Harvey Smith
Owner, Smith Family Farm

Harvey Smith resides in New Haven, VT where he has owned Smith Family Farm since 1972. Previously a dairy farmer, he now raises soybeans and forage crops and co-owns Smith Family Beef Harvey's involvement with agricultural issues includes serving as State Representative for Addison - 5 district and on the House Agriculture Committee. Mr. Smith studied Animal Science at the University of New Hampshire prior to moving to Vermont. Throughout his professional career, Harvey has been an active member in several associations. He is an executive committee member of the Associated Industries of Vermont and President of the Addison County Farm Bureau. He has also served on the Addison County Planning Commission including the Executive Committee and was a past Chairman of the Executive Committee, the UVM Extension Advisory Board, Agri-Mark/Cabot Cooperative, and the Center for Sustainable Agriculture.

Jane Clifford
Executive Director, Green Mountain Dairy Farmers Cooperative

Jane is currently the Executive Director of Green Mountain Dairy Farmers Cooperative Federation, Inc. She represents the farmer members of Agri-Mark, Dairylea, DFA and St. Albans Cooperatives. Jane was a 1974 graduate from the University of Vermont with a degree in education. She has worked in schools in Addison and Chittenden counties. Jane and her husband Eric own and operate a 500-acre dairy farm in Starksboro, Vermont. Their farm includes 200t Holstein cows milked 3x and 190t calves and heifers. They crop about 400 acres with corn, alfalfa and hay. The farm has been owned and operated by the Clifford Family since 1793.

John Roberts
Butterwick Farm, Cornwall, VT

James Ehlers
Executive Director, Lake Champlain International

James Ehlers is the Executive Director of Lake Champlain International (LCI); LCI is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the conservation, restoration and revitalization of Lake Champlain and the Lake Champlain watershed. Mr. Ehlers is an environmental, economic, and social leader with a diverse background in business, military service, tourism, agriculture, education, science, and public policy active in many community issues demonstrating his deep commitment to justly solving the critical issues central to the health and welfare of his fellow Vermonters.