

Local Programs Annual Erosion and Sedimentation Control Workshop

April 19 – 20, 2023

Speaker Biographies

Rebecca Coppa, State Sediment Education Specialist, NCDEQ-DEMLR

Presenting: Day 1 Welcome; Day 1 & 2 Closing Remarks; Education Outreach Tips and Tricks

Rebecca has a B.S. in Environmental Engineering and minor in Environmental Science from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in Massachusetts and has been with NCDEQ's Erosion Program for over four years now. Rebecca is also a Co-State Coordinator for Project WET or Water Education Today.

Julie Coco, PE, State Sediment Specialist, DEQ-DEMLR

Co-presenting: Objective for the Day and Local Program Introductions

Presenting: Sedimentation Program News & Updates; Day 2 Welcome & Objective for the Day

Julie Coco is the State Sedimentation Program Engineer for the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources. She holds a B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering from Louisiana Tech University and a Graduate Certificate from NCSU in Geographical Information Systems. Her experience includes work in private practice and previous work in state government involving flood control, stormwater, erosion control, and permitting.

Graham Parrish, PE, Assistant State Sediment Specialist, NCDEQ-DEMLR

Co-presenting: Objective for the Day and Local Program Introductions

Presenting: Local Program Need to Know

Graham has a B.S. in Environmental Engineering from NC State University and has been with the NCDEQ's Erosion Program for almost three years and recently passed his PE exam!

Davy Conners, Environmental Program Consultant, NCDEQ-DEMLR

Online Moderator

Davy is the newest member of the NCDEQ's Central Office Staff's Erosion Program, but isn't new to NCDEQ. Her prior experience includes working with the Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service and the Division of Waste Management. Davy also holds a B.S. in Secondary Science Education and a Masters in Environmental Studies with a concentration in Environmental Management.

Kathryn Matthews, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services

Presenting: Endangered Species Act Basics

Kathy is a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in Raleigh. She has worked with the Service for 11 years. Prior to that, Kathy worked for the U.S. EPA for 14 years, in the Water Division.

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She has a BS in Marine Biology and MS in Marine Ecology from Florida Tech. Kathy spends most of her time reviewing development projects for impacts to threatened and endangered species.

Jennifer Mitchell, CFM, Town of Fuquay Varina

Co-presenting: Local Program Enforcement Tools

Jennifer Mitchell is the Environmental Program Coordinator for the Town of Fuquay-Varina. She has a BS in Environmental Science from North Carolina State University. Her experience includes over 20 years of work in private, county, and municipal work involving flood control, stormwater, erosion control, and project management for capital improvement projects.

Daniel Colavito, Town of Holly Springs

Co-presenting: Local Program Enforcement Tools

Daniel Colavito is the Environmental Control Supervisor of the Town of Holly Springs. He has a BS in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences from North Carolina State University. His experience includes MS4 Permit compliance, E&SC program implementation, as well as policy and regulatory advocacy. He is a past-president of the Stormwater Association of North Carolina and the current president of the APWA NC Chapter Stormwater Management Division.

Dr. Susan White, WRI Director, SCC Chair

Presenting: Welcome & Overview

Dr. Susan White is the executive director for the Water Resources Research Institute for the University of North Carolina, North Carolina Sea Grant and North Carolina Space Grant. All three programs provide targeted research, outreach and education projects to address critical issues in the state and within the region. Dr. White has served on the North Carolina Sedimentation Control Commission since 2013 and was named chair of the N.C. Sediment Control Commission by Gov. Roy Cooper in 2017.

Tamera Eplin, PE, Regional Engineer, NCDEQ DEMLR WSRO

Co-presenting Dam ESC Sites

Tamera has been with DEQ for about 24 years. She served in the Mooresville Regional office for 9 years as a Compliance Supervisor for the Division of Air Quality, and 11 years with the Mooresville DEMLR Land Quality Section as the Express Engineer. She's been serving as the Regional Engineer of the DEMLR Winston-Salem Regional Office for the past 4 years.

Nicole Chiles, EI, NCDEQ DEMLR WSRO

Presenting: Dam ESC Sites

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Nicole had been with DEQ for almost 3 months. She graduated from North Carolina State University with a degree in Biological Engineering. She previously has worked in Land Development Stormwater (2 years) and in Dam Construction/Rehabilitation/Removal (6 years). She has worked on dams across the US from Alaska to Raleigh and all different shapes and sizes, embankment to concrete to pumped storage. She has broad knowledge of ESC, Hydraulics & Hydrology, Stream & Wetland Restoration, CAD skills and loves plants.

Jeevan Neupane, PE, Wake County

Presenting: Chain of Command-Compliance

Jeevan is currently working for Wake County, Environmental Services. He has more than 15 years of combined experience in civil engineering. A majority of my experience have been Sediment and Erosion Control Design and Regulation, Stormwater management Design and Regulation, Civil Site Design, Hydrodynamic Modeling, Auto Cad Civil 3 D Modeling, Auto Cad Drafting, Stormwater Flow Analysis, Hydraulic Structures Design, Geotechnical Site Investigations, Geotechnical Investigation and Slope Stability Analysis.

Donald Pearson, EI, Summit Design and Engineering

Co-presenting: Using Drones for E&SC

Donald Pearson retired from NCDOT's Roadside Environmental Unit in May 2021 and has begun a new career with Summit Design and Engineering Services. His goal is to continue working on current and future 540 Infrastructure projects to blend Environmental Compliance Training and Guidance for contractor and Inspection personnel.

Aaron Harper, PE, NCDOT, Roadside Environmental Unit

Co-presenting: Using Drones for E&SC

Aaron Harper is a graduate of NC State University in Biological and Agricultural Engineering. Aaron began working with the NCDOT in 2012 and has served in multiple roles within the Field Operations Section of the Roadside Environmental Unit from the piedmont to the coast.

Miguel Santiago, NCDOT, Roadside Environmental Unit

Co-presenting: Using Drones for E&SC

Miguel Santiago has been working with NCDOT since 2001. He has been a licensed commercial drone pilot since 2016 and has been working to find ways drones can innovate the work done for Roadside Environmental Unit.

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Maria Polizzi, NC Forest Service

Presenting: Forestry Update & How Forestry and ESC Intersect

Maria is the Forest Water Quality Senior Specialist with the North Carolina Forest Service, having joined the NCFS at the beginning of 2022. She has a B.S. in Environmental Technology and her M.S. in Soil Science both from NCSU, with prior erosion control experience working in environmental consulting.

AJ Lang – PhD, RF, NC Forest Service

Co presenting: Temporary Stream Crossings

AJ has served as the Watershed & Conservation Staff Forester within the Water Resources Branch of the North Carolina Forest Service for the past 7 years. In this role he supports and leads non-point source pollution projects that increase awareness and evaluate effectiveness of forestry Best Management Practices. He co-led revisions to the forestry BMP manual released in 2021. Prior to working for the state he measured and modeled soil erosion along forest roads at stream crossings as part of his graduate research work at Virginia Tech.

Jay Wilson, CPESC, City of Charlotte

Co presenting: Temporary Stream Crossings

Jay serves the City of Charlotte as a Water Quality Administrator, overseeing the City's delegated Erosion Control Authority and a team of reviewers and inspectors. He is a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control and has over fifteen years of full time regulatory experience with construction site stormwater management.