



Coalition *for the* Delaware River Watershed

9th Annual (Virtual) Delaware River Watershed Forum

Schedule-At-A-Glance

Pre-Forum: Tuesday, September 28th, 2021

3:00-5:00 PM Conservation Collaborative Steering Committee

Day 1: Wednesday, September 29th, 2021

9:00-10:30 AM Opening Keynote

Join us for the kick off of the Forum and hear about successes from the past year. Speakers to be announced.

11:00 AM-12:00 PM Breakout Session 1 (Concurrent Sessions)

- **Structural Racism and Federal Clean Water Policy**
 - Ellen Kohler, Program Director for Water Resources, University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center
 - Coleen Walters, Delaware River Basin Program Manager, River Network
 - Additional speakers to be announced
- **Building Trusting Relationships Between Community Groups and Water Utilities**
 - Katherine Baer, Director of Science and Policy, River Network
 - Patty Elkins, Director of Planning, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
 - Additional speakers to be announced
- **Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers: A Road Map for Designating Additional River Miles**
 - Speakers to be announced
- **Using Monitoring Data to Generate Impactful Regulatory Change**
 - Ruth Hocker, Pennsylvania Office Director, Center for Watershed Protection
 - Lia Mastropolo, Urban Stormwater Associate Director, River Network
 - Kendra McKoy, Delaware Program Advocate, Watershed Institute

1:00-2:00 PM Breakout Session 2 (Concurrent Sessions)

- **Equipping Future Conservation Leaders: How to Build and Inclusive Internship Program**
 - Renata Barnes, Outdoor Equity Alliance Coordinator, Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space

- **Restoring Water Quality in the Main Stem Delaware River: Programs, Policies, and Strategies**
 - Steve Tambini, Executive Director, Delaware River Basin Commission
- **What it MEANS to Be a Board Member**
 - Brenna Goggin, Mid-Atlantic Leadership Development Manager, River Network
- **Advancing Environmental Justice: How Activists and Policymakers are Working to Bring Cumulative Impacts Legislation to Delaware**
 - Emily Knearl, Director of Advocacy and External Affairs, Delaware Nature Society
 - Shyanne Miller, Campaign Manager, Building People Power (A Campaign of Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League)
 - Additional speakers to be announced

2:30-3:30 PM Plenary- An Introduction to the Delaware Watershed Caucus

4:00-5:30 PM Plenary- Explore the Conservation Blueprint for the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program

Day 2: Thursday, September 30th

9:00-9:45 AM Breakfast Topic Discussions

- **Stream Designations & Antidegradation Across the Watershed**
- **How Market and Policy Solutions Work Together to Protect the Watershed and Local Economies**
- **Post-Covid Events and Election Activities**
- **Addressing Plastics throughout the Watershed**
- **The Impact of Positive Storytelling, through the River of the Year**
- **How to Utilize Constituents in Advocacy**

10:00-11:30 AM Breakout Session 3 (Concurrent Sessions)

- **The Urban Waters Federal Partnership: Identifying Opportunities for Collaboration**
 - Kathy Klein, Executive Director, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
 - Frank McLaughlin, Community Collaborative Initiative, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
 - Simeon Hahn, Mid-Atlantic Regional Resource Coordinator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 - Bobbi Britton, Member, Old Brandywine Village, Inc.
- **Take Ownership of Your Success! ... Grappling with Imposter Syndrome**
 - Aisha Moore, Founder, Self Care by Aisha
- **A River Reconnected: The Perception of Public Access to the Delaware River**
 - Miles Owns, Environmental Planner, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
 - Lisa Gaffney, Executive Director, Riverfront Alliance of Delaware County
 - Aseel Rashed, Director of Public Programs, Bartram's Garden
 - Anthony Belfield, Chairman, Bensalem Environmental Advisory Board

- **The Impact of Collaboration: Drawing on Relationships to Prime the Watershed for Pending Federal Dollars**
 - Verna Harrison, Founder, Verna Harrison Associates LLC
 - Alex Cupo, GSI Partners Manager, The Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia
 - Adam Hymans, Managing Director, Resource Media
 - Additional speakers to be announced

12:00-1:30 AM Plenary- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice: From Theory to Practice with the Delaware River Watershed Initiative's Racial Justice Initiative

Has your organization been working on learning about the importance Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice into your internal and external work, but feel stuck in how to move from the concepts you learn to actual implementation? Is your staff facing hurdles that could be circumvented if you learned about how other organizations navigated similar road blocks? Join the consultants working on the Delaware River Watershed Initiative's Racial Justice Initiative in this session to gain the information and skills needed to advance the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in your own work and within your organization, and to learn how the DRWI is implementing a watershed-wide road map to improving racial justice throughout the basin.

2:30-3:30 PM Open Networking Session

Day 3: Friday, October 1st, 2021

9:30-11:00 AM Connecting the Dots Between Watershed-Wide Partnerships

Back by popular demand! What if everyone across the watershed came together to solve one problem? While we've had much success in cleaning up the Delaware, we still have trouble crossing the lines of our coalitions, alliances, networks, and initiatives. Whether it's the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed, Alliance for Watershed Education, the Circuit Trail Network, or the Delaware River Watershed Initiative, there are several large-scale initiatives and even more small collaborations and impactful efforts underway. How can CDRW's policy work perform to advance the protection goals that are engrained in the DRWI? How can monitoring efforts contribute to storytelling to engage the outdoor recreation community, which can then advance policy and inclusion/equity efforts? Why is it so hard to get us to work in concert? This session will highlight what our collective strengths are, the challenges we face, and will get your input on what it will take to start working together toward the same broad goals. Whether you're neck-deep in an initiative, a part of a smaller collaborative efforts looking for support, or a group looking from the outside-in, there's space to discuss how to embark in a wide-spread coordinated effort to make this watershed even more powerful in its efforts for healthier lands and waters.

11:30- 12:15 Closing Plenary- Dr. Karen Gaffney, Author, Dismantling the Racism Machine: A Manual and Toolbox

For more than ten years Dr. Gaffney has taught a course, "Race in American Literature and Popular Culture", which she then adapted to a course on race for the public. Serving as a steering committee and board member of the Hunterdon County Anti-Racism Coalition and Northwest New Jersey Community Action Program (NORWESCAP). In our closing session of the conference Dr. Gaffney will

2:00- ~4:30 PM Regional-In Person Field Trips

While we couldn't be in-person for much of the conference, we are excited to provide **regional, in-person** field trips to connect in accordance with COVID guidelines. Most field trips can accommodate 10-20 attendees. More information will be shared on the conference registration site, but for now see below for a teaser of what is in store!

- Oyster Shell Bagging with the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (Wilmington)
- River Snorkeling in the Brandywine (Chester County)
- Stream Clean Up on the East Coast Greenway (Chester, near the Philadelphia Union Stadium)
- Petty's Island Tour (Camden)
- Dairy Farm Tour (Chester County)
- Lake Hopatcong's Floating Classroom (Lake Hopatcong NJ)
- LandHealth Institutes Native Plant Nursery Tour (Philadelphia)
- John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge Tour (Philadelphia)
- Jenkintown Creek Restoration Project Tour (Philadelphia)
- ****Virtual**** Wetlands of the Watershed Tour
- ****Virtual**** Film Viewing of a River Reborn