

BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE

Website Bios

American Society of Adaptation Professionals

Contact: Beth Gibbons

Website: www.adaptationprofessionals.org.

ASAP is dedicated to ensuring adaptation and resilience work leads to equitable, ethical, and effective outcomes. Beth Gibbons has over a decade of experience connecting practitioners, policy makers, and researchers across the climate adaptation community and specifically across the Great Lakes region.

The US Water Alliance

Contact: Abigail Gardner

Website: <http://uswateralliance.org>.

Abigail serves as the Communications Director for the Value of Water Campaign and the US Water Alliance. The US Water Alliance staff has been a key member of the Great Lakes One Water Partnership project team. Abigail handles press requests and media relations on behalf of the Value of Water Campaign and the Alliance. For more than a decade, Abigail has worked with communications and media at the intersection of politics, campaigns, and advocacy. Prior to her work with Value of Water and the Alliance, Abigail was a Vice President at SKDKnickerbocker, where she served as a communications consultant for several political candidates, issue advocacy campaigns, and clients in need of crisis-management. During her time at SKDK, she developed a specialty in the transportation and infrastructure space. She also served in the official office of Congressman Dan Maffei (D-NY) and Governor Eliot Spitzer and worked on several political campaigns before joining SKDKnickerbocker. Abigail is a graduate of the University of Virginia.

Verna Harrison Associates, LLC

Contact: Verna Harrison

Website: www.vernaharrisonassociates

Verna Harrison leads a consulting and philanthropic advising firm specializing in organizational development and resource protection with an emphasis on clean water. The firm focuses on providing guidance on collaboration and water strategy at the national level and in the Chesapeake Bay and Great Lakes. Previously, she managed the grantmaking of The Campbell Foundation from 2003 to 2014. She was co-founder of the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network. For 20 years she was Assistant Secretary of the MD Dept, of Natural Resources. Earlier she was part of the team that developed the first Chesapeake Bay Agreement, continuing to coordinate future implementation with three Maryland governors to her current advisory positions.

GEI Consultants

Contact: Cameron Davis

Website: <https://www.geiconsultants.com/people/cameron-davis/>

Optimizing private sector expertise with public policy and financing for Great Lakes economic and ecological health.

RAIN Community Solutions, Green Communities Canada

Contact: Sharyn Inward

Website: www.raincommunitysolutions.ca

In 2009, recognizing the growing impacts of urban stormwater runoff – flooding, erosion, nutrient loadings, thermal pollution, infrastructure deficits and more – we initiated a program to help implement positive solutions. In 2010, after several years of research and testing, we launched RAIN to promote green stormwater infrastructure, also known as low impact development. RAIN helps to restore the urban water cycle and reduce runoff pollution by managing rain where it falls. RAIN Community Solutions is a joint venture of Green Communities Canada and our member organizations that works with municipalities, community groups, and property owners to get buy-in, action and results. In 2014, RAIN won the Council of the Federation award for excellence in water stewardship. Our key messages are "Slow it down! Soak it up! and Keep it Clean!"

Great Lakes Commission

Contact: Victoria Pebbles

Website: www.glc.org

Binational organization working in behalf of the eight states and two province's that border the Great Lakes. Since it was established in 1955 by the [Great Lakes Basin Compact](#), the Great Lakes Commission has worked with its member states and provinces to address issues of common concern, develop shared solutions and collectively advance an agenda to protect and enhance the region's economic prosperity and environmental health.

Mayors' Innovation Project

Contact: Emily Miota

Website: www.mayorsinnovation.org

The Mayors Innovation Project is a learning network for American mayors committed to “high road” policy and governance: shared prosperity, environmental sustainability, and efficient democratic government. We provide clear, useful information on policies and programs for local governments and create high-quality peer learning experiences for local leaders.

Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities

Contact: Diane Schrauth

Website: <https://www.fundersnetwork.org/>

The Funders' Network (TFN) hosts the Urban Water Funders, a working group of funders that explores the role of water in urban settings to the benefit of the environment, equity and economies of communities.

Alliance for the Great Lakes

Contact: Molly M. Flanagan or Joel Brammeier

Website: www.greatlakes.org

With a vision of a healthy Great Lakes for all people and wildlife, forever, the mission of the Alliance for the Great Lakes is to conserve and restore the world's largest freshwater resource using policy, education, and local efforts, ensuring a healthy Great Lakes and clean water for generations of people and wildlife.

The Nature Conservancy

Contact: Rich Bowman

Website: www.nature.org

The Nature Conservancy is focused on protecting nature for the benefit of people and nature. We help partners restore and protect ecosystems and the myriad environmental services they provide and find ways to manage human infrastructure to reduce undesirable environmental impacts.

Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition

Contact: Todd Ambs

Website: healthylakes.org

The Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition consists of more than 145 environmental, conservation, and outdoor recreation organizations; zoos, aquariums, and museums. Our member organizations represent millions of people who share a common goal: restoring and protecting North America's greatest freshwater resources, the Great Lakes.

Center for Neighborhood Technology

Contact: Peter Haas

Website: cnt.org

We have developed a set of tools to enable implementation of green infrastructure to help communities prevent and be more resilient to urban flooding. The RainReady policies and practices help residents and entire communities plan for weather events associated with global climate change. Our strategies are a toolkit for becoming more resilient to too much or too little rain in the most cost-effective ways possible.

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

Contact: David Ullrich

www.glslcities.org

A coalition of over 130 US and Canadian Mayors representing over 17 million people working together to protect and restore the water resource and ensure the long term economic, social, and environmental sustainability of the region.