

## **Local Speaker Bios – Sayreville, NJ 11/17/17**

### **Section 2 – Local Green Infrastructure Projects**

#### **Landscape-scale green infrastructure:**

##### **Jeremiah Bergstrom, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program**

Jeremiah Bergstrom is a Landscape Architect and Senior Research Project Manager at the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program. The Water Resources Program is currently leading green infrastructure initiatives in several New Jersey cities, including Camden, Newark, Jersey City, Trenton, Perth Amboy and Paterson. For the past three years, Jeremiah has collaborated with Rutgers Cooperative Extension colleagues to assist multiple New Jersey communities in reclaiming floodplain properties damaged during recent storms and developing restoration plans for these floodplain landscapes.

#### **Community/site-scale green infrastructure:**

##### **Carter Craft, Consulate General of the Netherlands**

Carter Craft is a Senior Economic Officer at the Consulate General of the Netherlands in New York. He is an urban planner with more than twenty years of experience on the waterfronts and waterways surrounding New York City. Carter's work in resilience goes back to the first "living bulkhead", a project developed on the Harlem River in collaboration with the New York City Parks Department beginning in 2002 and the development of new floating and land-based structures to support the Billion Oyster Project.

He teaches Waterfront and Wetlands Planning at Pratt Institute and for the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center. He is a licensed USCG Captain, and member of the Community Emergency Response Team in Hoboken, New Jersey. His work now focuses on sharing knowledge and best practices in the areas of climate change, water, and infrastructure between the Netherlands and the northeastern United States.

##### **Toby Horton, Rutgers University**

Tobiah (Toby) Horton is an Extension Specialist and Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture with Rutgers Cooperative Extension and Rutgers University. In this position, he teaches, conducts research and designs and builds demonstration green infrastructure projects, such as rain gardens across New Jersey. His work frames stormwater and building materials within a context of reuse, where the redevelopment process can lead to increased sustainability.

At Rutgers, Toby's current research and design projects include; "The Environmental and Social Systems Approach to Green Infrastructure (Integrating GI with site programming)", "Deconstruction and Redeployment Methods for Reuse of Building Materials" and "Deconstructing the Floodplain: Taking Apart Houses for Reuse and Green Infrastructure Installation".

#### **Shoreline protection:**

### **John Truscinski, The Nature Conservancy**

John Truscinski, *Coastal Resilience Manager*. John joined the Conservancy in 2016 in the role of Coastal Resilience Manager. He is primarily focused on developing and implementing a chapter-wide strategy to help ensure that nature-based solutions to coastal hazards are incorporated into local and state level decision making in New Jersey. Towards this goal John works with municipal leaders and the general public to help implement nature-based projects (e.g., living shorelines) in such a way as to build community support for investing in the health of coastal habitats and develop “champions” for sustainable coastlines.

## **Section 3 – Local planning efforts supporting green infrastructure**

### **Linda Weber, Sustainable Jersey and Sustainability Institute**

Linda Weber is a professional planner with 25 years of experience in the public and private sector, working in all aspects of planning and urban design. At Sustainable Jersey, much of Linda’s work has focused on climate resiliency. In 2014, she developed the Municipal Resiliency Cycle as an iterative path towards climate resilience, and has since been working with state agencies and partner organizations to help move municipalities through the cycle. Linda’s most recent work includes co-authoring the Municipal Coastal Vulnerability Assessment and the Urban Heat Island Assessment, and piloting these new tools in over a dozen New Jersey communities.