



RASCL Summit

Overcoming Roadblocks to Resilience and Sustainability

Event Program
December 6, 2022

SUMMIT SCHEDULE



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2022

10:00AM

OPENING REMARKS

- Danielle Swallow, Coastal Hazards Specialist, Delaware Sea Grant, University of Delaware

10:15AM

WELCOME ADDRESS

- Nicole Majeski, Secretary, Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT)

10:30AM

RED LIGHT, GREEN LIGHT: Stops and Starts Toward Resilient and Sustainable Communities

- Jim Pappas, Director of Transportation Resilience & Sustainability, DelDOT
- Phillip Cane, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA)
- Moderator: Susan Love, Administrator, Division of Climate, Coastal and Energy, DNREC

12:00PM

BREAK

- Lunch

1:15PM

BRIDGING THE GAP: The Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) and Funding the First State

- Chase Barnes, Assistant Policy Scientist, Institute for Public Administration, University of Delaware
- Greg Patterson, Infrastructure Implementation Coordinator, Office of Governor John Carney
- Emily Knearl, Delaware Director of Government Relations and External Affairs, The Nature Conservancy
- Moderator: Troy Mix, Policy Scientist, Institute for Public Administration, University of Delaware

2:30PM

ALL LANES OPEN: Local Success Stories

- Jennifer Adkins, Executive Director, Delaware Nature Society
- Ann Marie Townshend, City Manager, City of Lewes, Delaware
- Danielle Swallow, Project Coordinator, WIIN Coalition
- Moderator: Lynn Pusey, Coastal Training Program, Office of John Carney

4:00PM

ADJOURN

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

RED LIGHT, GREEN LIGHT: STOPS AND STARTS TOWARD RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

10:30AM-12:00PM

Have you ever wondered how towns, organizations, and agencies are managing to adapt to or mitigate many of the challenges of the last few years – all while sustaining the day-to-day operations or mission? This interactive session will shed light on a few of the challenges and opportunities that are present in our communities and allow time for Summit attendees to share, commiserate, and brainstorm potential solutions that foster resilient and sustainable communities. Let's use the power of this network to promote great dialogue!

BRIDGING THE GAP: THE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT (IIJA) & FUNDING THE FIRST STATE

1:15-2:15PM

The passage of IIJA creates an unprecedented opportunity for Delawareans to fund critical infrastructure projects, some of which are needed to address emerging climate, environmental, and land use changes. But getting the funds spent in time and on projects which directly benefit community resilience and sustainability is particularly challenging. Hear from federal, state, and nonprofit leaders who are actively working to bridge the gap and ensure that the funds are spent wisely. Learn what strategies are being employed to support local capacity and emphasize nature-based infrastructure and find out how you can help.

ALL LANES OPEN: LOCAL SUCCESS STORIES

2:30-4:00PM

Climate change and environmental degradation are most acutely felt at the local level. Find out what some of Delaware's communities and organizations are doing to adapt and mitigate. This panel will feature local projects from across Delaware that demonstrate how the project's leaders overcame barriers and adopted successful strategies in support of local resilience, sustainability, or the use of nature-based infrastructure.

PRESENTER BIOS

[presented in alphabetical order]



JEN ADKINS

Executive Director, Delaware Nature Society

In May 2022, Jen Adkins stepped into the role of Executive Director, after many years of being a member, supporter, and partner of the Delaware Nature Society. She is a fifth generation Delawarean with a deep appreciation and love for its people and places. Jen brings over 25 years of experience in land and water conservation in the region and state, including leading the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary as its Executive Director for more than ten years. She has a passion for conservation through collaboration and building relationships between diverse stakeholders to pursue common goals. Jen is an experienced nonprofit manager who has worked in conservation at the federal, regional and local levels through positions with American Rivers, The Nature Conservancy, the Land Trust Alliance, and the Brandywine Conservancy. She is also an active volunteer on the board of the Urban Bike Project and the Christina Conservancy, as a member of the Delaware Sierra Club's Environmental Justice committee, and an appointee to the State of Delaware's Water Infrastructure Advisory Council and New Castle County's Open Space Advisory Board.

Jen lives in Wilmington, Delaware where her favorite things to do are walking, hiking, biking, playing tennis, and socializing with friends and family outdoors, especially near the Christina and Brandywine Rivers where she is a frequent visitor to the Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge, Markell Trail, South Wilmington Wetlands Park, and Brandywine Park.

PRESENTER BIOS

[presented in alphabetical order]



CHASE BARNES

Assistant Policy Scientist, Institute for Public Administration, University of Delaware

Chase Barnes received his Masters in Public Administration from the University of Delaware Biden School of Public Policy & Administration. In addition to his degree, Chase has six years of experience working in state and local government in Australia, Missouri, and Delaware. His previous roles have focused on facilities management, project management, procurement, customer service, and policy research.



PHILLIP CANE

State Hazard Mitigation Officer, DEMA

Phillip Cane is the State Hazard Mitigation Officer and Mitigation Project Officer for the Delaware Emergency Management Agency while coordinating statewide damage assessments post-disaster. Experienced Investigator and Supervisor with a demonstrated history of working in the government administration and law enforcement industries. Criminal Investigations, Leadership and Management, Customer Service, and Government. Strong operations professional with a Master's degree focused in Homeland Security from American Public University.

PRESENTER BIOS

[presented in alphabetical order]



EMILY KNEARL

Delaware Director of Government Relations and External Affairs,
The Nature Conservancy

Emily Knearl has worked in Delaware public policy, community building, and convening partners on strategic planning for over 25 years. She has wide ranging experience including in public health, clean water and stormwater policy, climate change, disaster planning, and environmental diversity, inclusion, equity and justice issues. She specializes in identifying and bringing together partners to develop policies using a science-based approach.



SUSAN LOVE

Administrator, Climate and Sustainability Section, Division of Climate,
Coastal and Energy, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and
Environmental Control (DNREC)

Susan Love is the Administrator of the Climate and Sustainability Section of the Division of Climate, Coastal and Energy in the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. She directs programs to adapt to climate change, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, and promote sustainable development policies throughout the state. Recently this work included the completion of the state's first comprehensive Climate Action Plan and programs to facilitate electric vehicle deployment. Previously, she worked for the Delaware Coastal Programs, where she led the development of the state's Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan. Susan has worked in the public sector for 24 years and has significant experience conducting collaborative initiatives to solve emerging public policy issues. In addition to her climate change and sustainability projects, she led the development the South Wilmington Special Area Management Plan, which addressed a range of urban social and environmental issues in a vulnerable and underserved community, and led implementation of the Pea Patch Island Special Area Management Plan, which ensured the longevity and productivity of heron nesting habitat. Susan has also spent considerable time engaged with local government planning, wetland policy and permitting issues, and shorebird and horseshoe crab population monitoring. Susan holds a Masters of Public Administration (MPA) and a Bachelor's of Science in Agriculture, both from the University of Delaware. She also holds an AICP accreditation from the American Planning Association.

PRESENTER BIOS

[presented in alphabetical order]



NICOLE MAJESKI

Planning Supervisor, Delaware Department of Transportation

Nicole Majeski was sworn in as the 11th Secretary of the Delaware Department of Transportation on January 13, 2021. As Secretary, she leads an organization responsible for 90% of the state's transportation network, including the Division of Motor Vehicles and the Delaware Transit Corporation. Oversees the development and implementation of a six-year capital program of over \$4 billion and ensures compliance with U.S. Department of Transportation. In addition, she works with the state's counties, municipalities and towns to coordinate land use planning and transportation infrastructure needs throughout the state. With an annual budget of nearly \$1 billion and a dedicated workforce of over 2,500 employees, Nicole oversees one of the largest departments in state government.

As Secretary, Nicole represents Delaware as a member of the Eastern Transportation Coalition, the Northeast Corridor Commission, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and the Northeast Association of State Transportation Officials.

Prior to becoming Secretary, Nicole served as Deputy Secretary of DelDOT where she assisted in overseeing daily operations, managed policy and legislative initiatives, constituent relations, employee development and the audit section.

Before joining the state, Nicole worked for New Castle County Government for seven years, serving as chief of staff to then County Executive Chris Coons. She is a graduate of the University of Delaware and a Council of State Government Toll Fellow. Nicole and her husband Ari Messinger have two sons and reside in Middletown.



TROY MIX

Policy Scientist, Institute for Public Administration, University of Delaware

Troy Mix is an Associate Director and Policy Scientist with the University of Delaware's Institute for Public Administration (IPA). He leads IPA's Regional Development + Planning Team, which works with communities, individuals, and organizations seeking to shape the future of the places they care about. His work focuses on delivering data-informed research and analysis, strategic planning, and training services to support the economic and organizational development efforts of governments, business groups, and community stakeholders across Delaware and the mid-Atlantic region. Troy directs the state-funded IPA Grant Assistance program to help Delaware's local governments identify, secure, and manage grant opportunities.

PRESENTER BIOS

[presented in alphabetical order]



JIM PAPPAS

Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT)

Jim Pappas received his Bachelor of Civil Engineering from the University of Delaware and is currently pursuing a Masters in Business Administration with a concentration in Environmental Sustainability. Jim has worked for the Delaware Department of Transportation for over 27 years. The majority of the time was in pavement and materials engineering, Assistant Director of Performance Management, and currently as Deputy Director. Jim recently became involved as the Department's point of contact associated with sustainability and resiliency efforts. This role works across the agency and with other stakeholders within the State to plan, design, construct, and maintain an infrastructure that has resiliency and sustainability in mind.



GREG PATTERSON

Implementation Infrastructure Coordinator, Office of Governor John Carney

Greg Patterson was appointed by Governor John Carney in January 2022 as Infrastructure Implementation Coordinator to manage funding received by the State of Delaware through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law signed by President Biden in November 2021. Delaware is expected to receive more than \$2 billion over 5 years through the law, including significant new funding for road and bridge repairs, public transit, broadband expansion, clean water projects, and electric vehicle infrastructure. His responsibilities in the office also include coordinating federal affairs and some work on economic development projects. Patterson has worked in state government for more than 20 years, previously serving in roles for Governor Jack Markell and Governor Ruth Ann Minner, as well as at the state Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Department of Justice and Department of Insurance.



LYNN PUSEY

Coastal Training Coordinator, Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve

Lynne Pusey is the Coastal Training Program Coordinator with the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve (DNERR). Prior to joining the reserve this past September, she spent the past 18 years working for DNREC in the Division of Parks and Recreation and Division of Fish and Wildlife in varying field and educational roles, most recently as manager of the DuPont Nature Center. In her new role with DNERR and the Division of Climate, Coastal and Energy, Lynne is working to provide meaningful learning opportunities and information for community leaders, natural resource managers and conservation partners.

PRESENTER BIOS

[presented in alphabetical order]



DANIELLE SWALLOW

Coastal Hazards Specialist, Delaware Sea Grant

Danielle Swallow is a Coastal Hazards Specialist with Delaware Sea Grant, where she provides technical assistance and outreach to communities on emergency preparedness and building resilience to weather and climate hazards. She is a co-founder of the Resilient and Sustainable Communities League (RASCL) and is active in advising communities about resilient land use practices, hazard mitigation strategies, and capacity building. Danielle is the 2022 recipient of the Mid-Atlantic Sea Grant Award for Outstanding Outreach and the University of Delaware College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment's Community Engagement Award. She has over 20 years of experience in planning, policy, and science communications.



ANN MARIE TOWNSHEND

City Manager, City of Lewes, Delaware

Ann Marie Townshend is the City Manager for Lewes, Delaware. A Baltimore native, Ann Marie moved to Delaware in 1994 to attend graduate school at the University of Delaware. After graduating with a Masters of Public Administration in May 1996, Ann Marie began work for the Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation as an Outdoor Recreation Planner. In 2002, she went to work for the Delaware Office of State Planning Coordination as a circuit rider planner in Sussex County. In 2006, she became the Director of Planning and Inspections for the City of Dover, where she served until coming to Lewes in 2017. Ann Marie has served as president of the Delaware Chapter of the American Planning Association. As a professional planner and manager, she has been actively involved in issues such as housing, downtown redevelopment, sustainability and climate change, bicycle and pedestrian planning, comprehensive planning, and ordinance development. Ann Marie is a founding member of Delaware Women Leading Government and is currently serving as president. She is also a founding member and professional mentor for the University of Delaware's ICMA Student Chapter. Ann Marie is an active member of the American Planning Association and the International City/County Management Association. She is an ICMA Credentialed Manager and has been a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners since 2003. She and her husband Michael are blessed with two adult sons.

2022 SUMMIT SPONSORS

MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF RASCL AND THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL SUMMIT!



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2022 SUMMIT PLANNING COMMITTEE

[presented in alphabetical order]



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

- Nicole Marks
- Michael Tholstrup

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- Stephanie Johnson
- James Pappas
- Kelly Valencik

DELAWARE SEA GRANT

- Danielle Swallow

OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING COORDINATION

- Tricia Arndt

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- Kate Hutelmyer
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UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE WATER RESOURCES CENTER

- Martha Narvaez



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