

2011 Seattle Urban Watersheds Forum

Partnerships in Action

Program

- 5:30 p.m.** **Networking**
- 6 p.m.** **Welcome – Nancy Ahern**
Key Note Speaker – Gerry O’Keefe
- 6:15 p.m.** **Seattle’s Urban Watershed Strategy**
Julie Crittenden
- 6:30 p.m.** **Panel Discussion**
(moderated by Lisa Stiffler)
“Building Partnerships
for Neighborhood Scale Projects”
- 7:15 p.m.** **Networking**
- 7:30 p.m.** **Panel Discussion**
(moderated by Lisa Stiffler)
“Managing Rainwater at Home
and in the Community”
- 8:15 p.m.** **Wrap Up and Networking**



Restore Our Waters is the City of Seattle’s commitment to partner with the community to keep our region vibrant with fish and wildlife - in balance with how we live, work and play.

Speakers

Nancy Richardson Ahern is Deputy Director for Utility Systems Management (USM) at Seattle Public Utilities (SPU). She and her staff provide policy direction, regulatory compliance and capital programming for drinking water, drainage, sewage, and solid waste services. USM also provides a place to research, develop, and test science and sustainability-based approaches.

Before joining SPU in 2001, Nancy served for 15 years in state and local government, focusing on utilities and natural resource management. She served as manager of the Water and Land Resources Division in the King County Department of Natural Resources. Prior to that, she worked in the City of Bellevue Utilities Department and for the Puget Sound Water Quality Authority.

Gerry O’Keefe was appointed Executive Director of the Puget Sound Partnership on Feb. 11, 2011 after serving as Deputy Director since April 2010. Before that he was the Natural Resources Director for the Grant County Public Utility District - responsible for a \$1 billion environmental mitigation program required by the utility’s federal license.

Gerry led the Governor’s effort to establish a water supply program in Eastern Washington, breaking the gridlock among competing interests. He also negotiated agreements with the federal government, the Colville Tribes and the Spokane Tribe to provide the first new water supplies from the Columbia River in more than 30 years.

Julie Crittenden is an aquatic ecologist and advisor with the City of Seattle, working on protecting and improving urban streams, lakes, rivers, and marine areas. Julie has more than 13 years experience in water resource and ecology issues in Washington, California, and Alaska, working for Seattle Public Utilities, the University of Washington, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

She works on drainage and wastewater planning, strategic policy guidance, habitat assessment, salmon habitat research, shoreline and stream restoration monitoring, environmental impact analyses, and adaptive management.

Panelists

Lisa Stiffler is an award-winning environmental reporter and a journalism fellow with Seattle's Sightline Institute. Her reporting has covered the health of Puget Sound, the multi-billion dollar Hanford cleanup, and toxic chemicals in everyday items. More recently, she's taken an in-depth look at the threat posed by polluted runoff and stormwater solutions.

Cheryl Klinker serves as the chair of SPU's Creeks, Drainage and Wastewater Advisory Committee. She works for Seattle Public Schools as a budget analyst. She is passionate about creek and watershed health, as well as environmental education for students and the community. Cheryl is also chair of the Greater Lake City Community Council and the Thornton Creek Watershed Oversight Committee. She lives in the Lake City/Cedar Park neighborhood.

Chukundi Salisbury works for Seattle Parks and Recreation as the Trails Coordinator, managing the maintenance of more than 115 miles of trails. He has also worked as a coordinator at the Garfield Community Center and the Teen Life Center where he led backcountry trails restoration projects, as well as urban initiatives.

Brandon Morgan has managed the development process for multifamily units in several jurisdictions in the region, including five projects with LEED or Built Green certification. He joined Vulcan Real Estate in 2004, where he serves as asset manager for Vulcan's apartment portfolio, also leading sustainability initiatives and managing energy and water use.

Esther Handy serves as legislative aide for Seattle City Councilmember Mike O'Brien. Previously, she was a policy analyst for King County Executives Ron Sims and Kurt Triplett. As staff to the County's Equity and Social Justice Initiative, Esther worked across departments and with communities to apply an equity lens to County policy and decision-making.

Gretchen Muller works on Seattle Public Utility programs to improve water quality and reduce combined sewer overflows (CSO), including RainWise. She has also worked for the National Wildlife Federation and the University of Washington. She holds an M.S. Degree from the UW College of Forest Resources.

John Phillips has worked for King County's wastewater treatment division for 12 years and is currently responsible for sediment clean up, green stormwater infrastructure and climate change adaptation.

Susan (Sooz) Stahl has taught English in public schools for 11 years, the last four at Ballard High School. She is an avid gardener and committed to reducing the negative impact of humans on the environment.

Gretchen DeDecker is the Self Help Projects Coordinator for Seattle Public Schools, assisting with any project to improve school buildings or grounds that is initiated and carried out by a community group.

Carrie Bauer works for Seattle Schools and is currently the office manager at B. F. Day Elementary School in Fremont. She has worked with staff, students and the community on several garden projects at Pathfinder K-8 and at B. F. Day Elementary. During her training as a Master Composter, Carrie learned about low-impact development. She works as a volunteer on many rain garden installations around Western Washington.

David Burger is the Executive Director of Stewardship Partners and has 15 years experience working on community-based salmon recovery and managing non-profit organizations. He has also worked restoring salmon habitat with landowners, and building capacity of organizations statewide to engage community citizens in salmon recovery. David currently serves on the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum, the Executive Committee Board for Built Green of King and Pierce counties, and the King Conservation District Advisory Board.

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