

Annual Meeting

*Tower Hill Botanical Gardens, Boylston, MA
November 1, 2019*

What don't you know? *How to advance your career in Wetland Science*

Agenda

Moderators: Stacy Minihane (*Beals + Thomas, AMWS Secretary*), morning
Rich Kirby (*LEC Environmental, AMWS Vice President*), afternoon

8:15-9:00 **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

9:00-9:15 **Welcome and Overview**

Scott Smyers (Oxbow Associates, AMWS President)

9:15-10:15 **MassDEP: How to Improve Your Wetlands Protection Act Permit Applications**

Rachel Freed and Kimberly Roth (MassDEP Northeast Regional Office)

Avoid unnecessary pitfalls and potential delays with your Wetlands Protection Act filings! Representatives from MassDEP NERO will provide an overview of the Department's review processes, including a discussion of the types of information and data the Department typically looks for when conducting its technical review of NOIs, RDAs and ANRADs. Kim and Rachel will discuss the importance of complete submittals, adhering to statutory timeframes referenced in the regulations, determining the correct application(s) to file and other process-related topics (plus some lessons learned)! This workshop will provide valuable information for consultants, commissioners and conservation agents, including "seasoned veterans" and those who are new to the field of wetlands permitting.

10:15-10:45 **Break**

10:45-12:15 **A Review and Discussion of Professional Certifications**

Each speaker will provide the background and purpose of each certification program, information on supporting institutes/societies, renewal and CEU requirements, and benefits of certification.

10:45-11:15 *Ingeborg Hegemann (BSC Group), Professional Wetland Scientists*

11:15-11:45 *Mickey Spokas (UMass Amherst), Certified Professional Soil Scientists*

11:45-12:15 *Lee Curtis (BSC Group), Certified Erosion Control Specialists*

12:15-1:15 **Lunch**

1:15-1:35 **Follow Up to Challenging Delineation Workshops**

Scott Smyers (Oxbow Associates, AMWS President)

Scott will provide a summary of the 2019 series of workshops focused on challenging wetland delineations: what worked well, what needs improvement, and ideas on new directions for developing this workshop series to improve training of wetland scientists AND contribute to improving required data forms.

1:35-2:00 **MassDEP BVW Data Forms: Review Tips for Commissioners, Agents or Peer Review Consultants**

Michael Howard (Epsilon Associates, AMWS Past President)

This “short-course” discussion provides a refresher on the MassDEP Bordering Vegetated Wetland Delineation Field Data Form. What to look for? When to require them? Where to collect the data? How many forms to prepare? How to interpret the data? Common errors or omissions that can make or break a BVW boundary delineation.

2:00-2:15 **Break**

2:15-3:00 **Get it Right the First Time! Common Problems on Permit Applications submitted to the Army Corp of Engineers:**

Ruth Brien (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Regulatory Division)

Ruth’s presentation will focus on pointing out information to include in a PCN submission that is often missing. Putting these items in the initial submittal will save the applicant time and money and reflect well on the consultant.

3:00-3:30 **Bonus Q&A with the Army Corps of Engineers *and others TBD***

Ruth Brien (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Regulatory Division) and others TBD

Bring your burning questions! Topics could include: coastal projects related to the Rivers and Harbors Act (33 USC Section 408), changes to the Clean Water Act, and federally endangered bats.

3:30 - end **Business Meeting**

Scott Smyers (Oxbow Associates, AMWS President) and Diana Walden (BSC Group, AMWS Treasurer)

The business meeting includes review of the annual report, new business, election of officers and the members-only raffle.

AMWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESENTS: SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2019-2021

President: Richard Kirby, *LEC Environmental*

Vice President: Stacy Minihane, *Beals and Thomas*

Secretary: David Gorden, *PEER Consultants*

Treasurer: Diana Walden, *BSC Group*

Scott Smyers of *Oxbow Associates* would become

Immediate Past President upon the election of the above slate.