



2021 CIFA SRF Workshop

Green Infrastructure: September 28, 3:00 – 4:30 pm (ET)

In the Weeds with Green Infrastructure

Learn the latest trends in green infrastructure from a landscape architect who is nationally recognized for integrating art, education and ecological function into urban design of stormwater management. Hear about multidimensional green infrastructure projects funded by SRFs in three states, including integration of a green roof on Temple University's new Charles Library in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, expansion of green recreational space in the densely populated, economically disadvantaged City of Central Falls, Rhode Island, and transformation of an industrial site into a park with lush vegetation and amenities in Hoboken, New Jersey.

Meet the Speakers



Debby Dickson, Arkansas Department of Agriculture

Debby Dickson is a Program Financial Manager with Arkansas Natural Resources Division, helping communities to secure funding for water and sewer infrastructure. Debby is a graduate of Capella University with a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology, a certificate in accounting and over 30 years of accounting experience in various industries including governmental accounting. She has worked in the Clean Water & Drinking Water state revolving fund programs in Wyoming and now Arkansas for just over 12 years.



Kevin Perry, Urban Rain Design

Kevin Robert Perry is a nationally recognized leader in successfully integrating stormwater management with high-quality urban design. He has lead the conceptual design and/or provided design support on over 90 green infrastructure projects within the United States. Kevin's innovative stormwater projects meld the concepts of art, education, and ecological function. Kevin has extensive experience in the entire process for sustainable stormwater design and implementation, including pilot project identification, opportunities and constraints analysis, conceptual design and master planning, education and outreach for the client and general public, and assisting local design teams with technical design, construction administration, and operations and maintenance plan development.

Kevin's work experience has helped municipalities and policy makers develop a "toolbox" of design strategies and guidelines for agencies across the United States. Kevin has given over 100 public presentations nationally and internationally and often conducts "hands on" workshops for communities interested in how green infrastructure can be integrated within the urban fabric. His projects have been featured multiple times in Landscape Architecture Magazine, Stormwater Magazine, and other publications.

Kevin received his Bachelor's Degree in Landscape Architecture in 1996 at the University of California, Davis. Kevin has now come full circle and teaches advanced studio courses in green infrastructure at the UC Davis Landscape Architecture Department and has also created the California "Student Leadership in Green Infrastructure" group.

Jay Manning, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management



John (Jay) Manning, P.E. is a Principal Engineer with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Office of Water Resources. He has been the Department's Clean Water State Revolving Fund Coordinator since the program's inception in 1990 as well as the manager of other state water pollution grants programs. Jay also conducts the environmental review for all Drinking Water State Revolving Fund projects. Jay graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a B.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Tesra Schlupp, PENNVEST



Tess is a Region III Project Specialist and Senior Project Manager for PENNVEST. Tess began her Commonwealth Career in 1992 with the Department of Transportation in the Financial Analysis Maintenance and Evaluation unit. She joined the PENNVEST staff in 1998 as a member of the Chief Counsel's Office, serving as a legal assistant for 2 years and supervisor/office manager for 11 years. As PENNVEST Region III Project Specialist and Senior Project Manager, Tess serves 20 counties in South Central and Southeastern Pennsylvania. Her primary duty is to facilitate and coordinate the PENNVEST funding of water, sewer, brownfield remediation, stormwater and nutrient reduction projects with applicants and assist them in obtaining funding and implementing their projects.

Tess is a native of Pennsylvania. She graduated from Palmyra Area High School in 1986. She attended Slippery Rock University and Harrisburg Area Community College where she studied computer science and environmental engineering.



Raj Shah, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Raj Shah is a Principal Environmental Engineer with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Water Resources Management. He has been with NJDEP since 1988 and has extensive experience in surface water permitting, stormwater permitting, and the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. Raj graduated with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering in 1981 and post graduated with an M.B.A (finance and marketing) in 1988.