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2023 SPRING

WPC Environmental Conference



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John Piotrowski

Packaging Corporation of America (PCA)

John Piotrowski, a chemist by training, is WPC's Water Quality Committee Chair and has worked full-time in the industry for 33 years. He has been with Packaging Corporation of America (PCA) for the past 28 years and currently serves as the company's Vice President of Environmental Operations. Prior to joining PCA, John worked for International Papers (Merrill, WI) and Georgia Pacific (Port Edwards, WI).

In addition to John's work at PCA, John has made significant contributions to the industry. John is a long-time leader at WPC. In the 1990s he served as Chair of WPC's Solid Waste Committee and was later asked to serve as WPC's Water Quality Committee Chair. John has served as Water Quality Committee Chair for approximately ten years. He also is very active in an array of American Forest & Paper Association committees and is the Air Quality Committee Chair for the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement (NCASI) and also serves on NCASI's Executive Committee and Board of Governors.



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Lisa Bauer-Lotto

Green Bay Packaging

Wisconsin Paper Council Air Quality Committee Chair, Lisa Bauer-Lotto. Lisa is the Corporate Director of Environmental and Sustainability at Green Bay Packaging, Inc. In this role, Lisa heads up the strategic planning for Green Bay Packaging. She is instrumental in directing environmental compliance, sustainability and fiber certification programs for Green Bay Packaging's five product lines, and 37 manufacturing facilities in 15 states.



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Mykaela Chaffin

Wisconsin Paper Council (WPC)

Mykaela Chaffin is the Communications & Development Analyst at the Wisconsin Paper Council. In her role, Mykaela utilizes her communications, research, and design skillset to develop best practices for WPC projects. She is responsible for WPC social media, The Paper Files podcast, research projects, and the WPC Workforce Relations Committee. Her professional role helps to assure that WPC information and materials are accurate and informative for our membership and stakeholders. Mykaela graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with a degree in English, minors in Multimedia Journalism, Visual Media and Asian Studies, and certificates in Technical Writing and Japanese



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Mark Aquino

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Mark was recently appointed Assistant Deputy Secretary of the DNR, and was a manager at the DNR since 2001, started his career with the state as a management analyst at the Legislative Audit Bureau. In 1997, he was promoted to Section Supervisor of the Department of Transportation's strategic issues section. He started with the DNR in 2001 working as land services team leader, and was promoted to south central region land leader in 2005 and, and subsequently deputy land division administrator in 2009. Since then, Aquino has also served as Division Administrator for the External Services Division.



Wade Strickland

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Wade Strickland graduated from Western Michigan University with a B.S. in geology and completed graduate work at the University of Kansas. After working several years providing project management for the investigation and remediation of contaminated sites for the State of Kansas, Wade relocated to Alaska where he worked as a wastewater permit writer before he began managing the Wastewater Program for the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation for six years. Wade relocated back to the Midwest in 2018 and has been working as the Permits Section Chief in the Wastewater Program since starting at DNR. Wade's work at DNR includes managing many of the Wastewater Program's coordinator positions for topics including: residuals (industrial, biosolids and septage), limit calculation, compliance and enforcement, permit drafting, whole effluent toxicity, variances, water quality trading, and adaptive management. When not working, you can find Wade hiking, playing soccer, skiing, fishing, but most often, acting as an underappreciated chauffeur and resident chef for his three kids.



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Patrick Stevens

Wisconsin Paper Council (WPC)

Patrick Stevens is WPC's Vice President for Environment & Regulatory Affairs and General Counsel. He has worked throughout his career on environmental and natural resource issues. Pat has worked for a private law firm, three different trade associations, and as a state Assistant Attorney General. Pat also served at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, where he headed up the Environmental Management Division, and later served as Assistant Deputy Secretary.



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Melissa Yarrington

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Melissa Yarrington serves as the Storm Water Program Coordinator directing, overseeing, and developing policy and operational strategies for the Industrial and Construction Sectors with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in the External Services Division. Prior to her current role Melissa administered the Construction, Industrial, and Municipal sectors of the Storm Water Program in a permitting and compliance role for Northern and West Central Regions. Melissa received her Bachelor of Science Degree from the University Wisconsin- Stevens Point in Watershed Management with an emphasis in water chemistry. Previous work experience includes both water and environmental testing and analyses with a private certified laboratory and applied stormwater research with the United States Geologic Survey.



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Maria Hill

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Maria Hill has worked in the Wisconsin DNR Air Program for 23 years as a compliance engineer and currently as the Compliance, Enforcement, and Emissions Inventory Section Chief. The focus of her experience has been on compliance assistance and compliance monitoring of the regulated community. She helped develop the current Air Program stepped enforcement process that has been successful for over ten years. Regular collaboration with EPA Region 5, Department of Justice, Environmental Enforcement, Law Enforcement and agency staff has resulted in innovative ways to work with sources to obtain and maintain compliance.



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Fred Hegeman

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Fred has a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Civil and Environmental Engineering. He is a professional engineer, master plumber and a certified soiltester. Fred came to the DNR with a variety of experiences including: Consulting engineering to several Fortune 500 companies & federal agencies including DOE, DOD and EPA, owning and operating a mechanical contracting and a plumbing repair business, developing subdivisions & lake properties and rehabbing multiple housing developments, and As the Vilas County Zoning Administrator, reorganizing the role of the office and rewriting/updating several ordinances for improved flexibilities and efficiencies. At DNR, Fred has been the Statewide Wastewater Residuals Coordinator since 2008 where he is tasked with statewide coordination of: Biosolids (sewage sludge), Industrial landspreading, and Septage programs. He spends significant time on policy working with permittees and licensees to address issues and concerns.



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Steve Warner

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Steve Warner has a Bachelor of Science degree from Ball State University, and a Master of Science degree from Eastern Illinois University. Steve has been a Wastewater Specialist with the Wisconsin DNR for the past 15 years. Steve is the Statewide Site Review Coordinator, tasked with overseeing consistent and efficient review of septage, sewage sludge, and industrial fields statewide. Steve is a policy expert on septage, sewage sludge, and industrial wastes. Steve is also the South East Region landspreading specialist and septage coordinator.



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Todd Palmer

Michael Best Law Firm

Todd helps clients remain in compliance with all environmental laws, with a particular focus on Clean Air Act regulation. He routinely works on environmental permitting, compliance, litigation and enforcement defense matters. He was elected as a Fellow with the American College of Environmental Lawyers, has received the highest ranking by the international ranking organization of Chamber and Partners and has been selected as “Lawyer of Year” by Best Lawyers in America on five separate occasions.



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Giffe Johnson

NCASI

Giffe Johnson, Ph.D. – Chemical Management and Health Effects Program Manager, NCASI Dr. Giffe Johnson has been a member of the NCASI team since October 2017. Prior to joining NCASI, Dr. Johnson served as a faculty member of the University of South Florida's Toxicology and Risk Assessment program and Assistant Director of Research for the Center for Environmental and Occupational Risk Analysis and Management. Current areas of interest include bringing the best science to bear in the development of National Ambient Air Quality Standards, improving the science behind the development of Human Health Water Quality Criteria, and participating in the development of emerging regulatory practices for per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS). Email: gjohnson@ncasi.org.



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Rob Bermke

Georgia Pacific

Rob is a Strategic Environmental Manager supporting Georgia-Pacific's (GP) PRO business with manufacturing facilities in Wisconsin, Georgia, New York, and Oklahoma.

However, Rob was born (Plymouth), educated (BS and MS: UW-Green Bay), and has lived in Wisconsin (mostly DePere) his whole life, with air emissions experience in ammunition (about a year), utilities (about a year), and paper (about 30 years; with GP and predecessors).

Rob was directly involved in writing the original Title V application (circa 1995) for the (now) GP Broadway facility, and every TV application for that facility since then, many Construction Permits, as well as almost countless compliance demonstration documents. He supports all aspects of air emissions regulatory profiles for the facilities he supports.



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Allison Serakos

Barr Engineering

Allison solves Barr's clients' problems in air-related regulatory and ESG programs. She specializes in assessments related to climate change and life-cycle GHG accounting; air dispersion modeling; meteorological data analysis; emission calculations; and systems programming. For multiple public and private clients, Allison has performed both qualitative and quantitative GHG, climate change, and risk assessments for regulatory applications and ESG program development. She also assisted in the development of the Minnesota EQB's Climate Change and Environmental Review Pilot Program by refining the qualitative carbon footprint assessment. Allison holds a Master of Science degree in Land and Atmospheric Science from the University of Minnesota and conducted research on upper atmospheric and climate dynamics.



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