



SMITHFIELD, VA FORUM

SPEAKER BIOS

Albert Todd

Al is the Executive Director of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Founded in 1971, the Alliance is a trusted leader in Bay restoration known for building partnerships and supporting local action to protect and restore the Bay and its watershed. Prior to taking over the reins of the Alliance in 2011, Al had an exciting 33 year career that began as a hydrologist with the US Forest Service. There he gained experience with watershed management on National Forests in Idaho and California, as the Director for watershed restoration programs in the Lake Tahoe Basin, and later overseeing forest and watershed conservation efforts across a 20 state area which included the Chesapeake Bay. Al worked for over 16 years as Forest Service liaison to the Chesapeake Bay Program and then as the Chesapeake Bay Team Leader for the USDA Office of Environmental Markets. Al has worked on water issues from the local to the national level. Al received a B.S. in Environmental Resource Management from Penn State University and a M.S. in Watershed Hydrology from the University of Arizona. He has authored forest and water policies and technical papers related to stream restoration, riparian buffers, and watershed management and is the winner of 2 national awards for watershed stewardship.

Brian Ballard, AICP

Mr. Ballard currently serves as the Regional Community Plans and Liaison Officer (RCPLO) for Navy Region Mid-Atlantic. In this capacity he is responsible for advising the Regional Commander on existing and emerging encroachment issues throughout the region, coordinating with Installation CPLOs, and developing and maintaining working relationships with federal, state, regional, and local agencies. Mr. Ballard has also served as the Installation CPLO for Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story in Virginia Beach. Prior to working for the Navy, Mr. Ballard worked for a number of local governments in both land use planning and environmental capacities. Mr. Ballard is a certified as a professional planner from the American Planning Association's American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

Bill Gill

Bill graduated from Virginia Tech with a BS in Civil Engineering and is a licensed Professional Engineer. Bill has worked for Smithfield Foods for 25+ years, holding various project engineering and environmental positions. He is currently Assistant Vice President Environmental Affairs and is responsible for Smithfield's EMS/ISO14001, sustainability metrics collection and compilation, CSR Report development, compliance auditing, environmental training, and technical support for company operations.

Bill is a current member of the North American Meat Institute (NAMI) Environmental and Sustainability Committee and Board Chair for the Global Environmental Management Initiative (GEMI). Bill is also a current participant in the PMMI OPX Sustainability Solutions Group and a Board member of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. He has been a member of the Environment Virginia Symposium Advisory Committee for several years.

Susan Leidy

Susan is Deputy Director of the Chrysler Museum where she is responsible for major collections, exhibition and facilities projects, including the museum's recent expansion and renovation project. Educated at Dickinson College, the University of Pennsylvania, and Boston University, she worked previously at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, New Hampshire, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Yale Center for British Art, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She also directed the Washington, D.C. office for the international auction house Sotheby's. Leidy's community and volunteer service has included the boards of the Virginia Association of Museums, New England Museum Association, the Concord (N.H.) Chamber of Commerce, Chester College and Concord Public Library. At the Chrysler, she is particularly active in areas relating to sea level rise and as a liaison to the growing NEON arts district.

Larry Smith

Larry achieved his experience as an Engineer in the United States Navy. Larry later worked as a civilian contractor performing overhauls and operational checks on ship board propulsion systems. He began working in healthcare after realizing that hospitals never get underway; he started working at The General Hospital of Virginia Beach in December of 1980. He returned to Sentara in 2003, after being employed by Siemens Building Technologies for ten years. Larry served in many capacities within Sentara, currently filling the position of Facilities Director at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital.

Dr. Michelle Covi

Michelle is an assistant professor of practice at Old Dominion University in the Department of Ocean, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences and a Virginia Sea Grant Extension Partner. She conducts research and outreach activities for climate adaptation and coastal resilience efforts for coastal Virginia with an emphasis on Hampton Roads. Her research areas include sea level rise and resilience risk perception and communication, public participation in adaptation planning processes and the engagement of stakeholders in resilience practices. She co-organizes the Hampton Roads Sea Level Rise/ Flooding Adaptation Forum (with HRPDC), a quarterly meeting of adaptation stakeholders and works collaboratively with faculty from many Virginia universities (and beyond) on resilience projects. She completed her doctorate in Coastal Resources Management at East Carolina University, where her focus was on sea level rise risk communication and policy. She has a Master's degree in Marine Science from University of Georgia and a BS in Biology/Geology from University of Rochester.

Emily Steinhilber

Emily E. Steinhilber is a research assistant professor at Old Dominion University and coordinates the Commonwealth Center for Recurrent Flooding Resiliency, a partnership of ODU, VIMS, and the Virginia Coastal Policy Center at William & Mary Law School. The Center, established by the General Assembly in 2016, conducts interdisciplinary studies and provides technical and non-technical services to Virginia in the field of flooding resiliency. Previously, she helped to convene the Hampton Roads Sea Level Rise Preparedness and Resilience Intergovernmental Planning Pilot Project at ODU and was the Executive Director of the Virginia Coastal Coalition. She received her J.D. and Masters in Environmental Law & Policy, magna cum laude, from Vermont Law School and her B.A. in Economics and History from the University of Virginia.