

2026 NH COASTAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

Creating Possibility, Together



THURSDAY, MAY 21, 7:45 AM – 4:30 PM

Holloway Commons Squamscott and Cocheco Rooms, University of New Hampshire

Resource Packet Contents

PROGRAM	3
KEYNOTE SPEAKER INFORMATION	5
SPEAKER BIOS AND CONTACT INFORMATION	6
TABLER BIOS AND CONTACT INFORMATION	18
ARTIST BIOS AND CONTACT INFORMATION	20
PRESENTATION SUMMARIES AND LINKS TO ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	21

2026 NH COASTAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

Creating Possibility, Together



PROGRAM

7:45 AM **Doors open: Registration and Breakfast**

8:30 AM **Welcome and Program Introduction** – *Lisa Wise (CAW) and Todd Selig (Town of Durham)*

- *Messages from our Federal Delegation*

9:00 AM **Keynote Address: Elizabeth Rush**, non-fiction writer, Pulitzer Prize Finalist (*The Quickening: Creation and Community at the Ends of the Earth* and *Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore*)

10:00 AM **Break for Networking, Viewing Art Gallery and Tables**

Tales: Elizabeth Rush book signing, UNH Marine Docents, NH Healthy Climate, NH Environmental Justice Assessment
Art: Emily Cady, Taylor Rose and Becca Katz, Peter Weissbrod, and the Picturing Rising Tides Gallery

10:30 AM **Session 1 – Plenary**

Introducing the 2025 NH Coastal Flood Risk Science, Model, and A Neighbor's Case Study – *Lisa Wise (NH Sea Grant Extension), Kirsten Howard (NHDES), Kirk Bosma (Woods Hole Group), Alex Maxwell (Fuss & O'Neill), and Jayne Knott (HydroPredictions)*
The Climate Case for Workforce Housing – *Maeve Nolan (Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater Seacoast)*
Grey for Green: The Kings Highway Drainage Infrastructure Improvements – *Jennifer Hale (Town of Hampton)*
The Power of Participatory Science: Beach Profile Data for Understanding Coastal Change – *Wells Costello (NH Sea Grant Extension) and Suzannah Buzzell (UNH)*

12:00 PM **Lunch**

1:00 PM **Session 2 – Concurrent Presentations**

Room 1: Resilient Shorelines

- Genesis of Shoreline Designs at Wagon Hill Farm and Lessons Learned – *Tom Ballestero*
- Resolving Salt Marsh Ownership in Hampton Seabrook Estuary – *Aidan Barry and Rob Pruyne*
- Designing Resilience: Nature-based Climate Solutions in New England – *Jennifer Martel, Amy Bell Segal, and Beth Kirmmse*

Room 2: Resilient Structures

- Climate Resilient Stream Crossings: Are We There Yet? – *Polly Perkins and Patrick Jackson*
- Evaluating Coastal Pavement Performance and Adaptation under Sea Level Rise in New Hampshire – *Wei Sun*

2026 NH COASTAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

Creating Possibility, Together



- Building Resilience can be Fun and Engaging at a Vulnerable Living History Museum – *Rodney Rowland*

Room 3: Resilient People

- Learning from the Great Bay: Practices for Equitable Relationship Building & Resource Sharing – *Lucy Perkins*
- Filling the Gap: Helping Neighborhoods Be Prepared – *Maureen Aylward-Bover*
- Developing a Nature-Based Solutions Workforce in Rhode Island – *Stephanie Moniz and Richard Zevallos*

2:30 PM Break for Networking, Viewing Art Gallery and Tables

3:00 PM Participant Pop Up and Climate Champions Award

Climate Champions Awards: *Presented by Jay Diener and Rayann Dionne of the Seabrook-Hamptons Estuary Alliance*

Participant Pop-up: *Attendees are invited to briefly share recent accomplishments, project updates, new ideas, upcoming opportunities, or pose an emerging question.*

3:30 PM Session 3 – Live Podcast Conversation

Ahead of the Tide: Granite Goodness presents coastal climate visionaries

- Host: Andy DeMeo
- *Panelists: Maeve Nolan, Annie Cox, Cory Riley, Brianna Hagan*

4:20PM Closing Remarks and Adjourn

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



FUSS & O'NEILL



and a generous donation from a CAW member

2026 NH COASTAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

Creating Possibility, Together



KEYNOTE SPEAKER INFORMATION



Elizabeth Rush

Website: <https://authorsunbound.com/elizabeth-rush/>

Elizabeth Rush is the author of *The Quickening: Antarctica, Motherhood, and Cultivating Hope in a Warming World*, and *Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore*, a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. Central to Rush's writing practice is the act of listening: listening to those who live in front-line climate changed communities, listening to Antarctica's great glaciers as they go to pieces, listening to all those voices long locked out of environmental conversations. Her work explores a couple of fundamental questions: what does our disassembling world ask of us? How can we continue to live and love while also losing much?

Rush spent many years reporting from coastal communities already feeling the pressure of higher tides and stronger storms. In *Rising*, she weaves together her personal experience with firsthand testimonials of those living on climate change's front lines, guiding readers through some of the places where sea level is a reality. Hailed as "deeply felt" (*New York Times*), "a revelation" (*Pacific Standard*), and "the book on climate change and sea levels that was missing" (*Chicago Tribune*), *Rising* is both a highly original work of lyric reportage and a haunting meditation on how to let go of the places we love.

In 2019, Rush joined fifty-seven scientists and crew onboard a research icebreaker for months. The destination: Thwaites Glacier. The goal: to learn as much as possible about this mysterious place, never before visited by humans, and believed to be both rapidly deteriorating and capable of making a catastrophic impact on global sea-level rise this century. In *The Quickening*, Rush documents their voyage, offering the sublime—seeing an iceberg for the first time; the staggering waves of the Drake Passage, the torqued, unfamiliar contours of Thwaites—alongside the workaday moments of this groundbreaking expedition. A ping-pong tournament at sea. Long hours in the lab. All the effort that goes into caring for and protecting human life in a place that is inhospitable to it. Along the way, she takes readers on a personal journey around a more intimate question: What does it mean to bring a child into the world at this time of radical change?

Rush's work has appeared in wide range of publications from the *New York Times* to *Orion* and *Guernica*. She is the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Science Foundation, National Geographic, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the Howard Foundation, the Andrew Mellon Foundation and the Metcalf Institute. She splits her time between Providence, Rhode Island where teaches creative nonfiction at Brown University and Bogotá, Colombia.

You can buy her books, *Rising* and *The Quickening*, from the table provided today by Water Street Bookstore, located in Exeter, NH.

2026 NH COASTAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

Creating Possibility, Together



SPEAKER BIOS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Opening Remarks



Todd Selig – Town of Durham, NH

Email: tselig@ci.durham.nh.us | Website: [Town of Durham, NH](https://www.ci.durham.nh.us)

Todd I. Selig has served as Administrator for the Town of Durham, NH since 2001, a role that involves equal parts leadership, problem-solving, and occasional municipal improvisation. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Syracuse University, he holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of New Hampshire and has worked in several New Hampshire communities along the way. He has completed executive programs at Harvard Kennedy School and received statewide recognition for his service, including NH’s “40 Under Forty” and the 2024 MMANH Member of the Year award. He lives in Durham with his family.

Session 1 – Plenary



Lisa Wise – Strafford Regional Planning Commission

Email: LWise@straffordrpcnh.gov | Website: [Strafford Regional Planning Commission](https://www.straffordrpcnh.gov)

Lisa Wise recently joined the Strafford Regional Planning Commission as a regional planner. She serves as the circuit rider planner for the Town of Strafford, provides assistance to municipal land use boards, and contributes to local and regional planning efforts. Lisa co-chairs the New Hampshire Coastal Adaptation Workgroup alongside Kirsten Howard and recently coordinated the 2025 update to the NH Coastal Flood Risk Summary, Part I: Science report. She is a Certified Floodplain Manager and earned a B.S. and M.S. from the University of New Hampshire.



Kirsten Howard – NHDES Coastal Program

Email: Kirsten.b.howard@des.nh.gov | Website: [NHDES Resiliency and Adaptation webpage](https://www.des.nh.gov/resiliency)

Kirsten Howard is the Resilience Program Coordinator for the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program. In this role, Kirsten assists New Hampshire’s 17 coastal communities to plan and prepare for coastal hazards such as sea-level rise and storm flooding by providing technical assistance, grant support, and supporting state policy improvements. Kirsten co-chairs the New Hampshire Coastal Adaptation Workgroup. She is a Certified Floodplain Manager and received a B.A. from Brown University and a M.S. from the University of Michigan. She lives in Portsmouth with her husband, two young daughters, and her dog Timber.

2026 NH COASTAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

Creating Possibility, Together



Kirk Bosma- Woods Hole Group, Inc

Email: kbosma@woodsholegroup.com | Website: [Woods Hole Group, Inc.](https://www.woods-hole.com)

Kirk F. Bosma, PE, is a Senior Coastal Engineer and Vice President at Woods Hole Group. He also currently serves as engineering director at the Stone Living Lab. Kirk has more than 29 years of experience in the fields of coastal sciences and engineering as well as climate change and resilient design, specializing in the areas of developing gray, green, and hybrid coastal engineering adaptations for fostering urban and rural resiliency in a cost-effective approach.



Alex Maxwell - Fuss & O'Neill

Email: alex.maxwell@fando.com | Website: [Fuss and O'Neill](https://www.fussandoneill.com)

Alex is a Project Manager and Senior Environmental Planner with over 15 years of experience working on a range of environmental planning and engineering projects from river corridor master plans to environmental impact evaluations, municipal climate action plans to coastal flood resilience projects. Through his work, Alex has demonstrated his experience leading and implementing both virtual and in-person community engagement activities that have included community-led design and planning charrettes, environmental justice outreach, and stakeholder workshops that honor local voices and knowledge, while also engaging in science-based discussions of how communities are shaped by – and adapting to – changes in climate.



Jayne Knott - HydroPredictions

Email: jfknott@hydropredictions.com | Website: [Hydropredictions](https://www.hydropredictions.com)

Dr. Jayne Knott is the founder of JFK Environmental Services LLC (HydroPredictions), a consulting firm specializing in hydrogeology, groundwater remediation, and climate change adaptation. Dr. Knott investigates changes in groundwater and surface-water systems caused by rising temperature, changing seasons, and rising sea levels using field studies and numerical model simulations. In this work, she investigates vulnerable infrastructure and natural systems, water-quality degradation, and adaptation alternatives. She works for Federal, state, and local agencies, environmental consulting firms, academia, and attorneys. Dr. Knott holds a Ph.D. and master's in civil & environmental engineering from the University of New Hampshire and M.I.T., respectively.

2026 NH COASTAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

Creating Possibility, Together



Maeve Nolan – Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater Seacoast

Email: coordinator@seacoastwhc.org | Website: [Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater Seacoast](#)

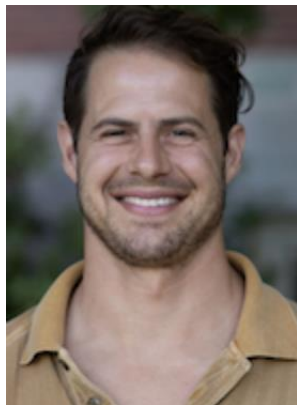
Maeve Nolan is the Communications & Engagement Coordinator at the Workforce Housing Coalition of Greater Seacoast, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that educates and engages communities and municipalities on the advancement of diverse housing options so that everyone who works on the Seacoast can call it home. With a background in policy research and community engagement, Maeve is dedicated to working across groups and organizations to address the most pressing matters associated with the housing crisis on the Seacoast. Maeve holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Middlebury College in Vermont, where she minored in Environmental Studies and French.



Jennifer Hale – Town of Hampton, NH

Email: jhale@hamptonnh.gov | Website: [Town of Hampton, NH webpage](#)

Jennifer Hale is the Director of Hampton DPW with over 29 years of experience working alongside both private and public entities related to engineering design, policy decision and project management. Since joining Hampton in 2015, she has overseen millions of dollars in project expenditures for both emergency and planned projects. Throughout her career, Jennifer has developed exceptional leadership and communication skills demonstrated by her commitment to working with fellow employees, regulating agencies and the public. Jennifer earned her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of New Hampshire and is a professional engineer licensed in New Hampshire and Massachusetts.



Wells Costello – NH Sea Grant Extension

Email: wellsley.costello@unh.edu

Wells is the Citizen Science Program Manager for the Coastal Research Volunteer (CRV) Program. In his role Wells advertises, recruits, and trains volunteers on a variety of citizen science projects and fosters connections with researchers and partners. Wells loves to be outside, working with people, and learning from the natural world around him. In his free time, you can find him changing diapers, surfing, and tinkering in the basement.

2026 NH COASTAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

Creating Possibility, Together



Suzannah Buzzell – UNH

Email: Suzannah.buzzell@unh.edu

Suzannah is currently pursuing a master's degree in the Natural Resources and the Environment program at the University of New Hampshire. As a NH Sea Grant Community Engaged Graduate Research Fellow, her work is centered on expanding participatory science in the Hampton-Seabrook Estuary, along with creating a long-term monitoring plan for the salt marshes of the estuary. Outside of the office, Suzannah enjoys birding and biking, often at the same time.

Session 2 – Concurrent Presentations

Room 1: Resilient Shorelines



Thomas P. Ballestero – UNH Coastal Habitats and Restoration Team

Email: Tom.ballestero@unh.edu

Tom Ballestero has been with UNH since 1983. His general area of expertise is the restoration of impaired aquatic systems. This expertise includes efforts in stream restoration, wetlands restoration, living shorelines, groundwater remediation, and stormwater management. Tom is a licensed professional engineer, professional hydrologist, and professional groundwater scientist. He is a commissioner with the New England Interstate Water Pollution Commission, and former Director of the New Hampshire Water Resources Research Center.



Aidan Barry – NHDES Coastal Program

Email: Aidan.t.barry@des.nh.gov | Website: [NHDES Coastal Waters](#)

Aidan Barry is the Coastal Habitat & Resilience Specialist at the NHDES Coastal Program: Aidan has nearly 10 years of experience working on coastal habitat restoration and monitoring. Over the last five years at the Coastal Program, Aidan has focused on field and geospatial monitoring of past and present salt marsh restoration projects and operating the Coastal Landowner Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) with partners at the University of New Hampshire.

2026 NH COASTAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

Creating Possibility, Together



Robert C Pruyne Jr. – Rockingham Planning Commission

Email: rpruyne@therpc.org | Website: [Rockingham Planning Commission webpage](#)

Robert has been at the RPC since 2002, he serves as the GIS and IT Manager. He obtained his B.S. from Skidmore College in Environmental Planning and studied Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Massachusetts. He earned his professional GIS certification (GISP) in 2009. Robert has served on many public boards in Newmarket. Additionally, Robert has served on the Board of Directors for Lamprey River Watershed Assoc. (LRWA), the New England Chapter of URISA (NEURISA) and Cornerstone Montessori School. Robert is a ERYT-200, RYT-500 yoga teacher. He lives in Newmarket with his spouse and child and golden retriever 'Ted'.



Jennifer Martel – Copley Wolff and American Society of Landscape Architects-NH

Email: jmartel@copley-wolff.com | Website: [Copley Wolff](#)

Jen Martel is a principal and owner at Copley Wolff, a landscape architecture studio delivering thoughtful, resilient site solutions for municipal, institutional, and development projects across New England. With more than 20 years of experience, she leads teams to shape open spaces that serve both people and the environment, from streetscapes and parks to waterfronts, housing, and campuses. Jen is also active in civic leadership, serving on the Planning Board in Exeter, New Hampshire, and on the Board of Trustees for the American Society of Landscape Architects, representing the New Hampshire Chapter.



Amy Bell Segal – American Society of Landscape Architects

Email: absegal@sebagotechnics.com | Website: [Sebago Technics](#)

Amy Bell Segal is Vice President of Landscape Architecture at Sebago Technics, a multidisciplinary firm with four offices in Maine. A Cornell graduate with more than 30 years of practice in the state, she has led projects including coastal residences, multifamily and mixed-use developments, recreation and summer camp master planning, public parks, and visual impact assessments for green energy. Her work in coastal resiliency and sand dune restoration has expanded following the major coastal storms of December 2023 and January 2024.

2026 NH COASTAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

Creating Possibility, Together



Beth Kirmmse – *Fuss & O’Neill and American Society of Landscape Architects-RI*

Email: Beth.kirmmse@fando.com | Website: [Fuss and O’Neill](#)

Beth’s breadth of experience includes landscape architecture, construction management, and environmental planning. She manages projects from all points of view (client, design, and construction), bringing a thorough understanding of everyone’s perspective to each job. Managing projects from beginning to end, Beth has guided and worked as a member of many multidisciplinary teams of scientists, engineers, planners, and regulators. Beth brings a unique perspective to projects through her background in government and environmental policy along with experience in business management that enables her to facilitate solutions for resilience that deliver co-benefits for the communities she works with. Additionally, she has lectured and taught studios at URI, RISD, and the BAC in the Landscape Architecture Department.

Room 2: Resilient Structures



Polly Perkins – *NHDES Coastal Program*

Email: Pauline.f.perkins@des.nh.gov | Website: [NHDES homepage](#)

Polly is a Watershed Management Specialist with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services with over 15 years of experience in stormwater management. From agricultural best management practices with the farmers of Vermont, to green stormwater infrastructure in the dense urban environments of California, to municipal vulnerability assessments in Massachusetts, Polly likes to focus on multi-benefit solutions to stormwater challenges. In her current role she manages the Critical Flood Risk Infrastructure Grant and the Culvert Flood Risk Assistance Grant programs, helping NH become more resilient to flooding from intense storm events and sea level rise due to climate change.

2026 NH COASTAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

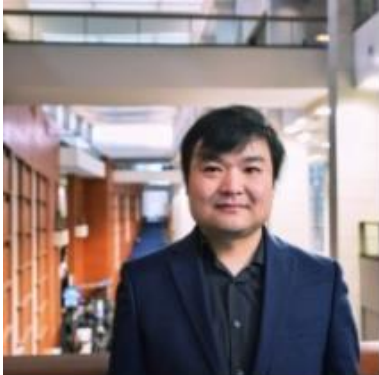
Creating Possibility, Together



Patrick Jackson – Underwood Engineers

Email: pjackson@underwoodengineers.com | Website: [Underwood Engineers](#)

I am a Project Engineer with Underwood Engineers in Portsmouth, NH, specializing in stormwater infrastructure and roadway projects. My work focuses on design of stormwater BMPs in both open and closed drainage systems serving municipalities across New Hampshire.



Wei Sun – UNH

Email: Wei.sun@unh.edu | Website: [UNH College of Civil and Environmental Engineering](#)

Wei Sun is a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of New Hampshire. His research focuses on climate-resilient transportation infrastructure, pavement performance under flooding and groundwater rise, and data-driven tools for infrastructure adaptation planning. He works on interdisciplinary projects that integrate pavement engineering, geotechnical modeling, life-cycle assessment, and decision-support tool development to help communities evaluate infrastructure risks and adaptation options under sea level rise and changing climate conditions.



Rodney Rowland – Strawberry Banke Museum

Email: rowland@sbmuseum.org | Website: [Strawberry Banke](#)

Rodney Rowland is the Director of Environmental Sustainability at Strawberry Banke Museum. After 35 years of working to preserve this important National Register listed site, he is now working to design and install adaptations to the land and the historic houses that will protect them from the ever-increasing threat from climate related surface and groundwater flooding. The balance between resiliency, historic preservation and teaching the site history is a constant conversation.

2026 NH COASTAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

Creating Possibility, Together



Room 3: Resilient People



Lucy Perkins – Siler Climate Consulting

Email: lucy@silerclimateconsulting | Website: [Siler Climate Consulting](https://www.silerclimateconsulting.com)

Lucy serves as the Director of Climate Resilience at Siler Climate Consulting (SCC), where she is part of a shared leadership team. SCC works with municipal, regional, and state governments to imagine and facilitate climate plans, projects, and programs that unlock the transformative potential of climate action while also addressing the underlying structural and systemic drivers of the climate crisis. SCC supports municipal climate action across multiple scales, from neighborhood to national. Lucy currently leads SCC's Maine practice and manages projects in Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. Lucy has been a worker-owner since she joined SCC in January 2025.



Maureen Aylward-Bover – TownGreen

Email: maureen@town-green.org | Website: [TownGreen](https://www.towngreen.org)

Maureen Aylward-Bover is executive director of TownGreen, a climate awareness and emergency preparedness education nonprofit based in Gloucester, MA, serving the greater Cape Ann region. Ms. Aylward-Bover was an adjunct professor of communications and sustainability at Endicott College and taught business sustainability and climate leadership in the Executive MBA program at Northeastern University.



Stephanie Moniz – Groundwork RI

Email: smoniz@groundworkri.org | Website: [GroundworkRI](https://www.groundworkri.org)

Stephanie Moniz is a first generation Cape Verdean native to Providence, RI; a creative with a passion for leadership development, art, activism, and purpose driven community work. She is a formerly incarcerated author/illustrator, public speaker, consultant, and environmental literacy/justice educator. Helping people develop necessary skills to co-create inclusive and ethical institutions, programs, and workspaces. Stephanie graduated from the Groundwork Rhode Island's Adult Environmental Job Training Program in 2016, one of the multiple programs she now manages as Training and Education Program Director.

2026 NH COASTAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

Creating Possibility, Together



Session 3 – Live Podcast Conversation



Andy DeMeo – Creator & Host, Granite Goodness

Email: hello@granitegoodness.com | Website: [Granite Goodness](https://www.granitegoodness.com)

Andy DeMeo is the creator of Granite Goodness, a media brand sharing optimistic stories of progress, problem-solving, and innovation across New England- good news with no fluff! A lifelong Granite Stater, Andy's work has attracted regional recognition including Stay Work Play New Hampshire's Young Person of the Year Award (2025), the Union Leader's 40 Under 40 Award (2026), and co-hosting TEDx Portsmouth 2025—the largest TEDx event in New England. When he's not interviewing optimistic New Englanders, Andy can be found tackling homesteading projects with his twelve chickens, two dogs, and one wife on their farm in New Hampshire's Mt. Washington Valley.



Cory Riley – Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Email: Cory.A.Riley@wildlife.nh.gov | Website: [Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Webpage](https://www.gbnerr.org)

Cory Riley is the manager of the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, a partnership between the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. She oversees the Reserve's education, research, stewardship and training and engagement programs and works closely with partners to protect water quality and coastal habitats in the Great Bay Estuary.



Brianna Hagan – Town of Hampton, NH

Email: Bhagan@hamptonnh.gov | Website: [Town of Hampton, NH webpage](https://www.hamptonnh.gov)

Brianna Hagan has served as Conservation Coordinator for the Town of Hampton since 2021, supporting the Conservation Commission's efforts to protect and enhance ecological health, with a focus on wetlands. Her efforts reflect the reality of climate change and coastal hazards that affect natural resources and the community at large. She reviews permit applications, helps shape regulations, leads public outreach, and manages conservation land. Brianna also oversees restoration projects, including within the Seabrook-Hampton Estuary, home to the state's largest salt marsh. She collaborates with Town departments, boards, the public, NHDES Coastal Program, and numerous other partners in this work.

2026 NH COASTAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

Creating Possibility, Together



Annie Cox – Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP)

Email: anne.cox@unh.edu | Website: [Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership webpage](#)

Annie Cox supports collaborative climate resilience and community engagement efforts across the Piscataqua Region. Her work includes coordinating the Great Bay 2030-funded Adapting Together program, which helps communities advance local climate resilience projects through technical assistance, partnership-building, and Climate Impact Grants focused on flooding and extreme heat. Annie works closely with municipalities, nonprofits, regional organizations, and community groups to identify local needs, strengthen partnerships, and connect communities with funding and planning resources across the watershed's 52 municipalities. Before joining PREP, Annie spent 13 years at the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve developing trainings, workshops, and decision-support tools that helped translate climate and coastal science into local and regional action.

TABLER BIOS AND CONTACT INFORMATION



Cynthia Nichols – NH Healthy Climate

Email: cnichols@antioch.edu | Website: [New Hampshire Healthy Climate](#)

Cynthia Nichols is an RN Care Manager working in the Dartmouth Health system acute care and critical access hospitals. Prior to becoming a nurse, Cynthia had an MS in Conservation Biology and has a deep passion for and understanding of how natural ecosystems support animals and the planet. Seeing how people's health is also directly connected to a healthy planet and impacted by things like air pollution, extreme heat or cold, changing ecosystems, and extreme weather, Cynthia recognized that she could bring both passions together and recently attained a certificate in Climate Resilience. Her hope is to use this background to help mitigate climate impacts and contribute to more resilient, equitable, and environmentally friendly communities.

Peter Howd – UNH Marine Docents

Email: peterhowd@gmail.com | Website: [UNH Marine Docents](#) After a career as a nearshore processes oceanographer, Peter Howd has immersed himself in K-12 science outreach as a volunteer in the UNH Marine Docent program where he leads the Beaches and Dunes Team. He has also served on UNH graduate thesis committees, is a member of the New Hampshire Sea Grant Program Advisory Committee and is an Affiliate Research Professor in the UNH School of Marine Science and Ocean Engineering. He serves as an alternate on the Durham Planning Board.

2026 NH COASTAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

Creating Possibility, Together



Shanika Amarakoon – Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG) / New Hampshire Environmental Justice Assessment

Email: Shanika.Amarakoon@erg.com | Website: [Eastern Research Group](http://EasternResearchGroup.com)

Shanika Amarakoon has over 25 years' experience as an environmental engineer and policy analyst for federal, state, and local agencies. She leads ERG's Climate and Environmental Justice Solutions Practice. As part of this work, she supports analysis and outreach with low-income and under-resourced communities, including rural communities, to address a broad range of areas, including brownfields redevelopment, sustainability, renewable energy, and clean transportation. She also leads analyses and projects related to community resilience, circular economy, renewable energy, life cycle assessment, grant support, and program evaluation.

Isabella Espinoza – Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG) / New Hampshire Environmental Justice Assessment

ARTIST BIOS AND CONTACT INFORMATION



Caring for Our Marshes, Artist

Taylor Rose – Artist

Email: rosemakesart@gmail.com | Website: [Taylor Rose Makes Art webpage](http://TaylorRoseMakesArt.com)

Taylor Rose is a New Hampshire based illustrator and painter inspired by the enchanting worlds and organisms within our forests, marshes, grasslands, shorelines, and beyond. She studies and renders the natural world using a range of mediums including digital, pencil, gouache, acrylic, paper, and metal. As an emerging illustrator in the field of natural science, she delights in celebrating storytelling, science, and education through art. Outside of art she also loves fly fishing, folklore, and traveling by bicycle.

2026 NH COASTAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

Creating Possibility, Together



Caring for Our Marshes, Web Designer

Becca Katz – NHDES Coastal Program

Email: rebecca.a.katz@des.nh.gov | Website: [NHDES Coastal Waters](#)

Becca Katz is the Coastal Grants Resilience Specialist for the NHDES Coastal Program and learned web design for this project. Becca helps run the Coastal Resilience Grants program, supports the Coastal Adaptation Workgroup (CAW), and facilitates project development and management. She loved learning web design for this project is and now undertaking a revamp of the Coastal Program webpages. She received her B.A. from American University and is in the process of getting her M.S. from Antioch University–New England.

Pete Weissbrod – Brave Boat Studio

Email: talktopete@gmail.com | Website: [Brave Boat Studio](#)

Pete is from northern New Hampshire. His time working as a forest ranger has influenced a focus is on liminal spaces of local scenery using a minimal palette impressionism technique.

Note from the artist: I strongly believe artistic powers can effectively inspire and provoke connections between our community and natural foundations influencing indirect but meaningful change at scale.

On foggy days, 2KR and hums audibly from the waterside. It sits alone about a from Whaleback lighthouse. The solitude of the man-made structure, among the flat open tranquility of the open sea, gives mystique. Sort of like an unassuming obscure singing device in the middle of nowhere forgotten by time.



Emily Cady – New Hampshire Art Association, Earth Tones Group

Email: emily@nhartassociation.org | Website: [Emily Cady Design](#); [NH Art Association](#)

Emily is a screen printer and illustrator living in southern Maine. She is inspired by nature, food and capturing moments of daily life.

Note from the artist: I created this piece in response to my concern for how quickly the Gulf of Maine is warming, and how lobster fishermen are, in some cases, pivoting to kelp farming. Lobsters are migrating north to cooler waters, resulting in lower yields for Maine's lobstermen.

2026 NH COASTAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

Creating Possibility, Together



PRESENTATION SUMMARIES AND LINKS TO ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Session 1: Plenary

Introducing the 2025 NH Coastal Flood Risk Science, Model, and A Neighbor's Case Study

Lisa Wise (NH Sea Grant Extension), Kirsten Howard (NHDES), Kirk Bosma (Woods Hole Group), Alex Maxwell (Fuss & O'Neill), and Jayne Knott (HydroPredictions)

Kirsten will set the context for the 2025-2026 update to the New Hampshire Coastal Flood Risk Summary—an effort that she has been leading with her colleagues Lisa Wise and Jennifer Gilbert. Kirsten will explain the impetus for and purpose of the NH Coastal Flood Risk Summary update as well as key findings from the recently published Part I: Science report that provides the most recent and best available information about future coastal flood hazards in coastal New Hampshire driven by sea level rise, coastal storms, groundwater rise, and extreme precipitation.

Groundwater – The Rising Threat to Infrastructure in Coastal Communities

This presentation will be part of a Flood Risk Science panel. Dr. Jayne Knott will briefly describe our groundwater study funded by NHDES, in partnership with City of Portsmouth, and Jennifer M. Jacobs & Associates LLC. We will discuss the threats and costs of shallow and rising groundwater along with impacts of saltwater intrusion on coastal roads, subsurface infrastructure, and water quality. The presentation will conclude with the development of adaptive management plans in the face of deep uncertainty, rooted in continuous monitoring and adaptation pathways that change with changing conditions.

Additional Information:

- [2025 New Hampshire Coastal Flood Risk Summary, Part I: Science](#)
- [NH Coastal Viewer Groundwater maps](#)
- [NH Coastal Flood Risk Summary update information page](#)

The Climate Case for Workforce Housing

Maeve Nolan (Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater Seacoast)

This presentation will explore the relationship between housing development and environmental protection. Though these topics are sometimes portrayed as adversaries, this presentation will establish that higher density development is the best way to preserve land and limit the environmental impacts of suburban sprawl, while boosting the supply of housing throughout our region and creating vibrant live-work communities. Join us as we delve into the data on the existing housing crisis, discuss barriers to development, and highlight a community case study where climate and housing concerns worked together for a best-case outcome.

Additional Information:

2026 NH COASTAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

Creating Possibility, Together



- [Terner Center: Role of New Housing in Reducing Climate Pollution](#)
- [Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies: Exploring Climate Change in U.S. Housing Policy](#)
- [Strafford Regional Planning Commission: 2026 Data Snapshot](#) (see page 142)

Grey for Green: The Kings Highway Drainage Infrastructure Improvements

Jennifer Hale (Town of Hampton)

With the devastating flooding that has increased over the years, and with the need to establish plans of resilience before and after the storms, the Town of Hampton has committed to developing and implementing a Coastal Resilience Plan. As part of these efforts, and as a recommendation of the Flood Studies that were completed to understand and model future flooding in Hampton, a new drainage system was needed for the Green and Gentian Neighborhood. The Town submitted a grant application to NHDES to complete this work and was fortunate to receive \$3.3 million dollars toward the \$4.3 total cost. The project was a success!

Additional Information:

- [Project Information | Hampton, NH](#)

The Power of Participatory Science: Beach Profile Data for Understanding Coastal Change

Wells Costello (NH Sea Grant Extension) and Suzannah Buzzell (UNH)

The Power of Participatory Science: Beach Profile Data for Understanding Coastal Change

New Hampshire's Volunteer Beach Profile Monitoring Program (NH VBMP) is a partnership of academic faculty and staff, community members, and state agency staff collecting beach surface elevation data along the NH coastline. The data can provide valuable insights into how our beaches respond to and recover from storms, short and long-term trends of erosion and accretion, and beach elevation and volume as indicators of resilience. This presentation will share how these volunteer-generated datasets can be used by researchers, land use managers, state and federal agencies, and coastal communities to better understand coastal conditions and processes to guide future nature-based adaptation strategies. The NH VBMP demonstrates how participatory science expands our capacity to generate high-quality data and also strengthens the connection between people and place - building a foundation for resilience that is rooted in both science and community.

Session 2: Concurrent Presentations

Room 1: Resilient Shorelines

Genesis of Shoreline Designs at Wagon Hill Farm and Lessons Learned

Tom Ballestero (UNH CHaRT)

2026 NH COASTAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

Creating Possibility, Together



Wagon Hill Farm living shoreline project had the objectives of arresting shoreline erosion, restoring salt marsh habitat, and accommodating expected sea level rise. Prior to its construction three years of nearly monthly meetings thoroughly dissected project designs. The meetings were attended by: local, state, and federal regulators; Town officials and citizens; and the design team. Multiple iterations of designs were developed, all during when the state wetland rules and federal posture towards ecosystem restoration were evolving. The result was a design that has been successful, but with some notable adaptive management. The initial project and its lessons informed the designs for the restoration of neighboring shorelines.

Additional Information:

- [Short-Term Recovery of Pilot Living Shoreline Projects for Salt Marsh Habitat in New Hampshire | Estuaries and Coasts | Springer Nature Link](#)

Resolving Salt Marsh Ownership in Hampton Seabrook Estuary

Aidan Barry (NHDES) and Rob Pruyne (RPC)

This presentation highlights the historic agricultural use of salt marshes in the Hampton-Seabrook Estuary, current marsh conditions, and projected future conditions if left unmanaged. While restoration and conservation strategies are available to NHDES and its partners, complex and uncertain land ownership throughout the estuary remains a primary barrier to implementation. The presentation shares findings from historic deed research, including widespread uncertainty in parcel boundaries and ownership. The next phase of work spanning to the end of 2027 will focus on coordinating with the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office and other professionals to evaluate legal and procedural pathways to resolve ownership uncertainties.

Additional Information:

- [Salt Marsh Parcels GIS map](#)

Designing Resilience: Nature-based Climate Solutions in New England

Jennifer Martel, Amy Bell Segal, and Beth Kirmmse (American Society of Landscape Architects)

Landscape architecture shapes the spaces where people, infrastructure, and natural systems meet. In the face of climate change, the field is uniquely positioned to lead resilience planning by bringing together interdisciplinary teams, translating complex ideas into clear, community-facing materials, and designing nature-based solutions. The presentation will highlight the Town of St. George, Maine Coastal Resiliency Project, focusing on how landscape architects translated complex environmental data into clear, actionable information and supported collaborative community engagement. A second case study will outline the landscape-architect-led design and permitting of a private-public sand dune restoration project on Willard Beach in South Portland, Maine.

Additional Information:

2026 NH COASTAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

Creating Possibility, Together



- [Climate & Biodiversity Resource Guides](#)
- [Coastal Resiliency Project: Town of St. George, Maine](#)
- [Downtown Mystic Resilience Study](#)
- [Westerly, RI Resilient Riverfront Renewal](#)
- [Easton's Beach Resilience Study](#)
- [Manchester by the Sea Coastal Vulnerability Action Plan](#)

Room 2: Resilient Structures

Climate Resilient Stream Crossings: Are We There Yet?

Polly Perkins (NHDES) and Patrick Jackson (Underwood Engineers)

This presentation will begin with a recap on a UNH Senior Capstone project completed in Spring 2025 that assessed the resiliency of culverts constructed in the past five years to determine if they have the hydrological capacity to accommodate future storm flows. We will then hear about resilient crossings projects that have been installed in NH's Seacoast. Lastly, we will discuss the resilient crossing project pipeline development by the NHDES Coastal Program.

Additional Information:

- [Topaz Dr Crossing, Barrington NH](#)
- [Lubberland Creek Crossing Newmarket, NH](#)

Evaluating Coastal Pavement Performance and Adaptation under Sea Level Rise in New Hampshire

Wei Sun (UNH)

This presentation introduces a web-based decision-support tool developed to help evaluate how sea level rise, coastal flooding, and rising groundwater may affect pavement performance in New Hampshire coastal communities. The tool combines pavement performance modeling, vulnerability assessment, and adaptation scenario analysis to support planning decisions. The presentation will highlight why coastal roads are vulnerable, what information the tool can provide, and how communities and practitioners may use the results to compare risks and explore adaptation options. The goal is to make pavement resilience information more accessible for climate adaptation and infrastructure planning.

Additional Information:

- [Wei Sun Publications](#)

Building Resilience can be Fun and Engaging at a Vulnerable Living History Museum

Rodney Rowland (Strawbery Banke Museum)

2026 NH COASTAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

Creating Possibility, Together



While resiliency is of paramount importance to Strawberry Banke, we also have to remember our founding mission to preserve and teach the rich history of our nine acre site. While some might say this is a challenge, it can be an opportunity for out-of-the-box thinking that makes resiliency a fuller, richer experience. In 2026, for example, an important archaeological site can be so much more to visitors to our site than what it is today. This presentation will explain how!

Additional Information:

- [Strawberry Banke Sea Level Rise](#)

Room 3: Resilient People

Learning from the Great Bay: Practices for Equitable Relationship Building & Resource Sharing

Lucy Perkins (Siler Climate Consulting)

Learning from the Great Bay will be an engaging session that introduces and invites participants to experiment with frameworks and tools for relationship building and resource sharing. Participants are invited to bring a project to use in a facilitated activity, allowing participants to walk away with concrete practices for ongoing and future projects. Frameworks and tools shared have been identified through an ongoing project funded by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation with the goal of better connecting with, including, and engaging all audiences in this geography, including communities who historically have not been involved in Great Bay-related efforts. This presentation and the project of Great Bay 2030 Engagement Consultant is a collaboration between Siler Climate Consulting and Vidya Balasubramanyam; Research, Science, and Program Director at the Coastal States Organization.

Filling the Gap: Helping Neighborhoods Be Prepared

Maureen Aylward-Bover (TownGreen)

TownGreen's Neighborhood Resiliency Project prepares Cape Ann (MA) households for climate threats by assisting individuals and families with completing a household emergency plan, reviewing an emergency go-bag checklist, and distributing go-bags. Priority populations that benefit from this information include immigrants, seniors, families with young children, and residents who access social services such as the food pantry, heat assistance, language classes, and other services. The presentation will spotlight lessons learned from implementing the program across a multisector network, which consists of social service providers, community-based organizations, language access providers, public safety officials, public health staff, schools, and aligned businesses.

Additional Information:

- [Neighborhood Resiliency Project webpage](#)
- [American Red Cross Family Disaster Plan](#)
- [MEMA Emergency Go-Bag Checklist](#)

2026 NH COASTAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

Creating Possibility, Together



- American Red Cross Go-Bag: [large](#) and [small](#)

Developing a Nature-Based Solutions Workforce in Rhode Island

Stephanie Moniz (Groundwork RI)

This presentation will highlight Groundwork RI's Storm Crew: Storm crew is a 16-week internship opportunity for Alumni of Adult Environmental Job Training. They are a stormwater management crew that performs inspections and routine maintenance on green stormwater infrastructure throughout the state of Rhode Island. This program was created as a transitional support opportunity for people leaving training and seeking full time employment, while supporting much needed water quality improvement efforts in partnership with community and municipal stakeholders.

Session 3 – Live Podcast Conversation

Ahead of the Tide: Granite Goodness presents coastal climate visionaries

Host: Andy DeMeo | Panelists: Maeve Nolan (Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater Seacoast), Annie Cox (Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership), Cory Riley (Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve), Brianna Hagan (Town of Hampton)

Granite Goodness is a media brand highlighting progress and problem solving across New England in climate, energy, sustainability, housing, infrastructure, economics, workforce development, science, technology, and non-profits. By focusing on stories that are substantive and optimistic (granite and good!) our newsletters and podcasts provide audiences with regional, rational optimism through an explicitly nonpartisan, solutions-oriented lens.

Table Descriptions

New Hampshire Environmental Justice Assessment Table

Shanika Amarakoon and Isabella Espinoza (Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG) / New Hampshire Environmental Justice Assessment)

The NH EJ Assessment is a vital step to ensuring that NH residents—no matter their income, race, or where they live, work, or play—have clean air and water, accessible green spaces, and healthy homes. It will include a qualitative and quantitative assessment of the current environmental justice landscape throughout the state to identify and understand the problems and concerns that are affecting our most vulnerable communities. The assessment will map New Hampshire's current landscape, identify key challenges facing overburdened communities, and highlight opportunities for action.

Additional Information:

- For more information about the NH EJ Assessment email Shanika.Amarkoon@erg.com and Isabella.Espinoza@erg.com.

2026 NH COASTAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

Creating Possibility, Together



- Organizations interested in partnering can fill out the interest form [at this link](#).

NH Healthy Climate

Cynthia Nichols

We will have posters and flyers to share information about climate change impacts to human health and an interactive mural focused on actions we can take to mitigate climate.

Building Resilient Shorelines: Exploring Engineering Tradeoffs to Meet Shared Societal Goals.

Peter Howd (UNH Marine Docents)

This display will allow attendees the opportunity to explore a hands-on activity used by the UNH Marine Docents, Beaches and Dunes team to introduce principles of the engineering design process as applied to resilient shorelines and the simultaneous goals of protecting both the built and natural environments, including maintaining a recreational beach. Target ages 10 to Adult.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



and a generous donation from a CAW member