

The 5th Annual SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

Speaker Biographies



Colonel William H. Graham, U.S. Army Corps,

Pittsburgh District Engineer

Colonel Butch Graham assumed command of the Pittsburgh District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on July 16, 2010. He is responsible for carrying out the District's mission within the Ohio River Basin, which includes more than 328 miles of navigable waterways on the Allegheny River, Monongahela River and upper Ohio River. Pittsburgh District's 26,000 square miles include portions of western Pennsylvania., northern West Virginia, eastern Ohio, western Maryland, and southwestern New York. Our infrastructure includes 23 navigation locks and dams, 16 multi-purpose flood damage reduction reservoirs, 80 local flood damage reduction projects, and other projects to protect and enhance water resources. With over 145 years of experience, the Pittsburgh District has accomplished its varied Civil Works missions in the areas of navigation, flood damage reduction, recreation, environmental restoration, hydropower, storm damage reduction, regulatory, water, and emergency response.

Colonel Graham came to the Pittsburgh District following a year at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, Massachusetts where he was the Army War College Fellow to MIT's Security Studies Program. A western Pennsylvania native, Colonel Graham was commissioned through the University of Pittsburgh's Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program in 1988 as a Second Lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers and has spent most of his career as a combat engineer.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terror Expeditionary and Service Medals, Overseas Service Medal, Saudi Arabia Defense and Kuwait Liberation Medals, Valorous Unit Award and Combat Action Badge.



James McCarville, Executive Director,

Port of Pittsburgh Commission

James R. McCarville has over 35 years of port and waterway experience. He has served as the executive director of ports of Superior, WI '77-'84; Richmond, VA '84-'90; and the Port of Pittsburgh Commission (since 1994). From 1990 to 1993 Jim served as a private consultant, advising governments of Brazil, Uruguay and Mexico on matters of port organization, operational efficiency and privatization and the governments of both Panama and the United States on the strategic transition plan for the transfer of the Panama Canal. Jim is the Eastern Region Vice-President of PIANC-USA, the past president of IRPT, Inc. (Inland Rivers' Ports and Terminals) and a member of the Board of Directors of Waterways Council, Inc. Jim is a native of Wisconsin. He is a graduate of Regis College in Denver and holds advanced degrees in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, Washington, DC, and Urban Studies from Roosevelt University, Chicago IL.

Speaker Biographies Continued...



Jeanne M. VanBriesen, Ph.D., P.E.,

Carnegie Mellon University

Dr. VanBriesen received her M.S. and Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Northwestern University. She is currently a Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University with a courtesy appointment in the Department of Biomedical Engineering. She recently served on the National Research Council study on water quality in southwestern Pennsylvania and was named director of an urban water quality center launched at Carnegie Mellon in 2005. Her research interests include biodegradation of recalcitrant organics (including chelates and PCBs), modeling thermodynamic analysis of biological systems, water-energy nexus, and detection and quantification of pathogenic organisms in drinking water systems. In 2011, Carnegie Mellon received an NSF-funded Integrated Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) award entitled, Nanotechnology Environmental Effects and Policy (NEEP). She leads a team of researchers and mentors at Carnegie Mellon and Howard University in this new graduate program.



Dave Kaufman, P.E., Vice President of Engineering,

Pa American Water

David R. Kaufman is responsible for the administration of engineering services, including capital program management and the planning, design, and construction of water and wastewater capital investment projects for Pennsylvania American Water. He has overall responsibility for capital improvement projects involving water supply, treatment, and distribution systems and wastewater treatment and collection systems. He has been involved in a wide-range of projects associated with dam rehabilitation, water and wastewater treatment plant upgrades and expansions, distribution and collection system evaluation and replacement, plant automation, and waste handling facilities. Dave represents the Company before regulatory and environmental agencies and provides expert testimony. Mr. Kaufman has more than 30 years of experience in the fields of civil/environmental engineering and operational administration of water and wastewater systems. Dave has a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Penn State University and became a registered professional engineer in 1980.



John Riley, P.E., General Manager, Moon Township Municipal Authority

John Riley has led this western suburb water and sewer utility for many years with a focus on providing excellent service to its customers at the lowest long-term cost. His strategy has been to charge adequate rates to allow significant annual reinvestment in infrastructure while avoiding debt. Mr. Riley has managed numerous projects to maintain and improve infrastructure including the water treatment plant, two wastewater treatment plants, thirteen wastewater pump stations and over 300 miles of sanitary sewer and water lines. Mr. Riley has also served on the Riverview Sanitary Authority Board of Directors for the last 12 years which operates a wastewater treatment plant that is jointly owned by Coraopolis Borough and Moon Township. Mr. Riley is a native of the Pittsburgh area and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Tennessee. Mr. Riley worked 11 years as a water and wastewater consulting engineer and has been with the Moon Township Municipal Authority for 20 years.



April Newell Storm, Environmental Scientist, Tetra Tech

Mrs. Storm has 7 years of experience in the environmental field performing administrative oversight, Drinking Water Treatment and Research Fund (DWTRF) project support, non-profit management, engineering consulting, business management, soil and water assessments, and hazardous materials programs. She is currently providing administrative oversight for the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources' (WVDHHR) DWTRF projects. She has worked to develop the Piney Creek Watershed Based Plan which considered streams that WVDEP previously determined through their total maximum daily load (TMDL) program modeling efforts to be significantly impaired for metals and/or fecal coliform bacteria. This watershed based implementation plan outlined projects and their potential reductions that if pursued may achieve the necessary reductions in pollutant load(s) to the receiving stream to comply with the State's water quality standard(s). Mrs. Storm has also provided GIS and data management support for WVDHHR Source Water Protection Plans.



Sonia Brubaker, Environmental Protection Agency,

Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water

Ms. Brubaker is an Environmental Protection Specialist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water. Ms. Brubaker is involved with activities that aim to build and maintain the technical, managerial, and financial capacity of water systems to ensure their long-term sustainability. Ms. Brubaker is the National Coordinator for the Check Up Program for Small Systems (CUPSS) asset management software. CUPSS helps smaller water and wastewater systems implement asset management practices and develop customized asset management plans. Her experience with asset management principles and site visits at smaller water systems has helped to frame these efforts. Ms. Brubaker earned a B.S. in Environmental Policy and Planning from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech).