

7th Annual Delaware River Watershed Initiative (DRWI)

Winter Gathering – Adapting in Times of Change

February 23 – 25, 2021

The Winter Gathering convenes approximately 200 people who are working together through the Delaware River Watershed Initiative to conserve and restore the waters that supply drinking water to 15 million people in the region. During the gathering we share and celebrate our successes, and strengthen our collaboration. Colleagues across the Initiative and in the region connect to share tools and resources, learn together, and develop strategies to increase our impact and capacity to do our work.

In 2021, during a turbulent time of many challenges and changes, the Winter Gathering will focus on supporting the network and its members to improve water quality and be responsive to emerging opportunities.

Featuring: Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer, Author of *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*; Director, Center for Native Peoples and the Environment, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.



"Action on behalf of life transforms. Because the relationship between self and the world is reciprocal, it is not a question of first getting enlightened or saved and then acting."

As we work to heal the earth, the earth heals us.

- Braiding Sweetgrass

Agenda

Date: Feb 17	Feb 23	Feb 24	Feb 25
12:00 – 1:00 PM Pre-Winter Gathering Session: An Intro to the DRWI	10:00 – 11:15 AM Opening Plenary Our progress and our stories	10:00-11:30: AM Concurrent Sessions	10:00 – 11:15 AM Concurrent Sessions
	12:00 – 12:45 PM Concurrent Sessions	12:00 – 1:15 PM Networking Lunches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One open dynamic networking session for everyone • Executive Directors • Communicators • Stormwater Cohort 	1:00 – 2:30 PM Closing Plenary Focus on the Future of the DRWI, led by the DRWI Initiative Stewards
	2:00 – 3:30 PM Keynote: Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer	2:00 – 3:15 PM Plenary Work in the Watershed Post 2020 Elections	

Program Sessions: Each day, choose from a variety of sessions relevant to your work in the DRWI. This includes topics such as doing outreach, policy and on-the-ground work/data collection in the midst of ongoing challenge and change, addressing racial equity, the impacts of climate change on water quality and our region, and more.

2021 DRWI Winter Gathering Program Highlights

Wednesday, February 17

Pre-Gathering Session: Intro to the Delaware River Watershed Initiative; 12 – 1 PM

New to the DRWI? Want to get an understanding of the Initiative from the bird's eye view? Join veteran DRWI leaders Carol Collier and Patrick Starr to get a handle on this unique collaboration's purpose, progress, key strategies and organization. Includes a who's who, a look at current issues and ways to get connected to colleagues around the region.

- Carol Collier, Academy of Natural Sciences and DRWI Leadership Council member
- Patrick Starr, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Upstream Suburban Philadelphia Cluster Coordinator and DRWI Leadership Council Member

Tuesday, Feb 23

Opening Plenary: Our Progress and Our Stories; 10:00 – 11:15 AM

Hear stories from colleagues around the DRWI that inspire and inform us about the variety of ways organizations have adapted to many changes in the past year. You will also hear from Andrew Johnson of the William Penn Foundation with a perspective on these times and the Foundation's response.

Concurrent Sessions: 12:00 – 12:45 PM

Beyond Awareness: Sparking Behavior Change with Social Science; 12:00 – 12:45 PM (concurrent session)

Organizations are often tasked with implementing outreach campaigns to promote environmentally responsible behaviors. Without exception, the success of these efforts hinges on behavior change on the part of individuals. Community-based social marketing (CBSM) has emerged as an effective approach for developing and implementing strategies that achieve measurable behavior change. CBSM is an evidence-based process that goes beyond knowledge and awareness raising to remove barriers, increase motivation, and change behavior through the application of social science tools. The session will provide an introduction to CBSM, how it's applicable to the DRWI and include case studies to demonstrate the theoretical foundations and guidance for how to apply the process in the field to support efforts to improve water quality.

- Presenter: Jennifer Tabanico, President, Action Research
- Moderators:
 - Rachel Dawson, Delaware River Program Director, NFWF
 - Carol Collier, Academy of Natural Sciences and DRWI Leadership Council member

Land Protection Roundtable; 12:00 – 12:45 PM (concurrent session)

Come together with your colleagues from around the DRWI to share and hear what is going on with land protection around the Initiative, including opportunities and challenges you're facing now and in the year ahead. You'll have the opportunity to exchange ideas and information about doing your work in these times.

- Facilitator: Michelle DiBlasio, Watershed Restoration Coordinator, The Nature Conservancy

Monitoring in times of COVID; 12:00 – 12:45 PM (concurrent session)

DRWI partners have been working to adapt robust community monitoring programs to conditions during COVID, the abilities and interests of their volunteers, local watershed issues, and unique challenges. Join in to hear three case studies from partners throughout the DRWI on how they have worked within their communities to use science, monitoring and community engagement to further their conservation work. These programs also provide opportunities to amplify the importance of keeping our freshwater resources healthy, flagging threats to water quality and celebrating improvements that are underway.

- Moderator: Stefanie Kroll, Project Science Director, Academy of Natural Sciences
- Presenters
 - Victoria Laubach, Executive Director, Green Valleys Watershed Association
 - Ryan Neuman, Upstream Conservation Leader, Tookany-Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership
 - Christa Reeves, Water Quality Program Coordinator, Musconetcong Watershed Association

Road Map to Clean Water, Justice and Jobs; 12:00 – 12:45 PM (concurrent session)

Perhaps nowhere in the nation are the issues of environmental, social and economic inequities and injustice more evident than in a 27 mile stretch of the Delaware River valley bordered by the cities of Camden, Philadelphia and Chester. In these cities with some of the highest poverty rates in the country, antiquated combined sewer systems continue to pour tons of bacteria laden sewage mixed with rainwater into people's basements, parks and waterways. The good news is that some of the best minds, community voices and issue experts from the region are joining together to explore how cleaning up this pollution, can bring equitable improvements in the quality of life, remove some of the unjust pollution burdens facing riverfront communities, and spark economic development, jobs and business creation. Representatives from the Alliance for Watershed Education, the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed, RiverWays Collaboration, the Water Center at U of Penn, and clean water utilities will share information about their role in collaboration on creating a Road Map to Clean Water, Justice and Jobs. Your comments, assistance and collaboration are invited and welcomed.

Participants:

- Tim Dillingham, Executive Director, American Littoral Society
- Andy Kricun, Senior Advisor, The Water Center at U of Penn
- Yasiria Lugo, Student, Rowan University; Urban Promise/RiverWays Collaboration
- Rev. Dr. Horace Strand, Executive Manager, Stormwater Authority of the City of Chester
- Verna Harrison, Stakeholder Outreach, VHA, LLC/American Littoral Society

Keynote: Dr Robin Wall Kimmerer; 2:00 – 3:30 PM (plenary)

Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer, author of *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teaching of Plants*, will share her experience with the restoration of ecological communities, and how we as a society relate to nature. As Director of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, her teaching has focused on how we as humans interact with nature, and how we can combat climate change and work towards conservation by

deepening our relationship with the land. This informs how science-driven decision-making can be served by incorporating a wider array of perspectives that represent people impacted by those decisions, as we seek to create greater racial equity.

- Moderator: Lin Perez, The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, DRWI Leadership Council

The one-hour plenary with Dr Kimmerer will be followed by discussion groups.

Wednesday, February 24

Concurrent Sessions: 10:00 – 11:30

Harnessing DRWI to Address Climate Change; 10:00 – 11:30 AM (concurrent session)

As communities across the Basin face the impacts of a changing climate, DRWI's targeted land protection, restoration, and complementary strategies offer solutions to support a larger mitigation strategy and local adaptation. Yet unless our work evolves to meet these challenges, climate change threatens to derail the initiative's goals to support clean water and healthy communities throughout the watershed. Structured as a dialogue between DRWI practitioners and experts from outside the initiative, this session will showcase a range of efforts already underway within DRWI and invite perspectives on how the initiative can address climate change and embed climate justice into its water quality protection.

- Moderators
 - Ellen Kohler, University of Md Environmental Finance Center
 - Hallie Schwab, Open Space Institute
- Presenters
 - Matt Ehrhart, Director of Watershed Restoration, Stroud Water Research Center
 - Kathy Fallon Lambert - Senior Advisor, The Center for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment (C-CHANGE) at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
 - Marccus D. Hendricks, Assistant Professor of Urban Studies and Planning and the Director of the Stormwater Infrastructure Resilience and Justice (SIRJ) Lab at the University of Maryland
 - Barbara Heskins Davis, Vice President, Programs, The Land Conservancy of New Jersey
 - Ellen Lott, Conservation Lands Project Manager, The Nature Conservancy PA

Good Projects ~ Good Proposals: Workshopping the Craft; 10:00 – 11:30 AM (concurrent session)

Conservation professionals continually work to develop truly good projects and to best convey them in proposals that result in funding. Based on an intensive inventory of funded and unfunded proposals and additional research, the NFWF Circuit Riders and DE Program Team have identified areas of opportunity for project and proposal development. This workshop will engage participants in unpacking these opportunity areas, with a focus on building and translating good projects into proposals that capture resources.

- Facilitated by the NFWF Circuit Rider Team and NFWF's DE Program Team
 - Rachel Dawson
 - Larry Elworth
 - Liz Feinberg
 - Mike Hickman

- Julie Schneider

Racial Justice, Equity and the Delaware River Watershed; 10:00 - 11:30 AM (concurrent session)

Join New Jersey LCV, Conservation Voters of PA, and DEIJ consultants Aimee Thorne-Thomsen, Jennifer Driver, and Elizabeth Schroeder to learn more about the new Watershed Racial Justice Initiative program, which is open to all staff and board members at organizations within the Watershed.

- Presenter: Hillary Mohaupt, Conservation Voters of PA and NJ League of Conservation Voters, Social Media and Inclusion Manager

Networking Lunches: 12 – 1:15 PM

- Come one, come all: join this dynamic networking session to connect with colleagues around the DRWI. Or join one of the specific sessions below:
- Executive Directors – hosted by ICL
- Communications – hosted by Resource Media
- Stormwater Cohort – hosted by American Rivers

Work in the Watershed Post 2020 Elections; 2:00 – 3:15 PM (plenary)

The results of the 2021 elections at the federal and state level have significant impacts for our movement’s ability to protect water quality. Join Josh McNeil, Executive Director of Conservation Voters of PA, Ed Potosnak, Executive Director of New Jersey LCV and Sandra Meola, Director of the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed for a breakdown of the results and a lively moderated discussion of the potential impacts on strategies, policy and funding.

- Moderator: Susan Phillips, Energy and Environment Reporter, for WHYY and StateImpact Pennsylvania

Thursday, February 25

Sustainable Green Infrastructure: Policies and Practices to Ensure Long-Term Success and Community Benefits; 10 – 11:15 AM (concurrent session)

When green infrastructure is installed in a community, it becomes a working part of the landscape. The services it provides—greenspace, water quality, habitat, shade—depend to some extent on how it is managed. Who maintains green infrastructure projects, and how, and for what purpose, are critical questions that need to be asked early on during planning and design in order to ensure sustainability. Using case studies from practitioners, this session will explore best practices for design and construction to facilitate long-term maintenance. It will also explore ways for local and state-level policies to create a framework for maintenance accountability, and environmental organizations to have a voice in management decisions.

- Moderator: Lia Mastropolo, American Rivers
- Presenters:
 - Ruth Hocker, PA Director, Center for Watershed Protection
 - Jamie Anderson, Eastern Delaware County Stormwater Collaborative
 - Jen Coffey, Executive Director, ANJEC

A Community Centered Approach to Outreach; 10:00 – 11:15 AM (concurrent session)

Outreach to community partners is a key part of the DRWI strategy. As a result, building your organization's ability and comfort to reach out to a broad range of constituencies is integral to accomplish your organization's/cluster's goals. Join the Neighborhood Design Center and Defensores De La Cuenca to learn about their approach to connecting and collaborating with communities while keeping equity at the center. And hear about efforts in the Kirkwood Cohansey cluster. You will leave the session with a fresh perspective on equitable community engagement and other examples from DRWI colleagues.

- Presenters:
 - Marita Roos, PLA AICP; Landscape Programs Director - Prince George's County office; Neighborhood Design Center
 - Abel Olivo, Co-founder and Executive Director, Defensores De La Cuenca
 - Jaclyn Rhoads, Assistant Executive Director, Pinelands Preservation Alliance.
- Facilitator: Joy Jackson, Senior Associate, Institute for Conservation Leadership

COVID Migration Land Use Impacts in the Watershed; 10:00 – 11:15 AM (concurrent session)

With the benefit of hindsight, we can see the societal changes resulting from the Black northern great migration and other migrations throughout US history. We have lots of anecdotal evidence to suggest significant COVID migration is happening and this is perhaps a portent for future climate change based migration. How do we recognize and plan to address migration in real time?

- Presenters
 - Chuck Flink, President/Owner, Greenways Incorporated
 - Jason Duckworth, President of Arcadia Land Company, member of Natural Lands' Board of Trustees
 - Steven Schwartz, Consultant
- Facilitator: Peter Lane, Consultant, Institute for Conservation Leadership

Pandemic Workforce Trends: How Are We Managing? 10:00 – 11:15 AM (concurrent session)

Since the Covid19 Pandemic hit, the national trends point to over 865,000 women dropping out of the workforce and other persistent challenges for stressed caregivers. This session will explore if or how these workforce trends might be showing up in the conservation community in the Delaware region. Join us to better understand the broad workforce trends, and for lots of discussion to draw out potential examples and ways managers are adapting to workforce changes.

- Facilitator: Dianne Russell, President, Institute for Conservation Leadership

Focus on the Future of the DRWI 1:00 – 2:45 PM (plenary)

More than two years ago, the DRWI Initiative Stewards' were tasked with considering what strategies and approaches will best sustain or even accelerate improvements to water quality of the Delaware Watershed over the next 15-20 years. Over the last two years they have researched, led DRWI discussions, and debated the best path for the DRWI's impactful future. Their report, *Recommendations for the Future*, will form the basis for our dynamic closing discussions. Come ready for an exchange of current practices and implementation ideas on five key elements from the Initiative

Stewards' recommendations for the DRWI's current and future impact -- climate, wildlife/recreation, drinking water, equity and inclusion, and the DRWI structure. You will have a chance to choose your topic and join in the discussion.