

# Delaware River Watershed Initiative (DRWI) 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WINTER GATHERING

*How might we? Discovering possibilities to accelerate progress.*

**February 22 – 24, 2022**

Join with others who are working together through the Delaware River Watershed Initiative for a convening that showcases work done throughout 2021, considers how we can address the evolving conditions and needs in the watershed, and presents emerging solutions to challenges impacting our work. The Winter Gathering is a unique time to focus on supporting the network and its members to improve water quality and to respond to emerging possibilities.

**We are thrilled to welcome speakers Mami Hara, CEO of US Water Alliance; John Francis, an American environmentalist nicknamed *The Planetwalker*; and Stuart Clark, William Penn Foundation Watershed Protection Program Director.**



*John Francis' environmental work began in 1971, when he witnessed a tanker collision and oil spill in San Francisco Bay. As an affirmation of his responsibility to our planet, he chose to stop using motorized vehicles and began walking wherever he went. His decision was greeted with surprise, disbelief, and even mockery – and a few months later, he took a vow of silence that would last seventeen years.*

*In over three decades of her public sector and private practice roles, Mami Hara has guided the planning and implementation of award-winning green infrastructure, sustainability, economic development, and waterfront programs across the United States. As the CEO of the US Water Alliance, she works to bring together diverse stakeholders to identify and advance common-ground solutions to our most pressing water challenges.*



*As Program Director of the William Penn Foundation's Watershed Protection team, Stuart Clarke's work focuses on creating the conditions for a healthy Delaware River watershed. He oversees a \$30 million annual grant portfolio, which includes investments in research, data gathering, and advocacy focusing on priority stressors across the watershed; targeted land protection and restoration; and efforts to broaden equitable public access to and engagement with the basin's rivers and streams.*

## Pre-Winter Gathering Mixer: February 15th, 3:00pm - 4:00pm

New to the DRWI? Interested in gaining an understanding of the Initiative from the bird's eye view? Join veteran DRWI leaders Laura Tessieri and Kate Hutelmyer to get a handle on this unique collaboration's purpose, progress, key strategies and organization. The session will include a who's who, a look at current issues, and will be a great opportunity to connect with other colleagues new to the initiative. *Kate Hutelmyer, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary; Laura Tessieri, North Jersey RC&D; Joy Jackson (Moderator), Institute for Conservation Leadership*

## Agenda - at - a - Glance

FEBRUARY 22nd	FEBRUARY 23rd	FEBRUARY 24th
Day 1 [9:30am - 1:00pm] <b>OUR WORLD NOW</b>	Day 2 [10:00am - 3:45pm] <b>OUR WORLD AS IT'S EVOLVING</b>	Day 3 [9:00am - 12:30pm] <b>POSSIBILITIES AHEAD</b>
9:30am - 10:30am Opening Plenary & Welcome  <i>10:30am - 10:45am Stretch Break</i>	10:00am - 10:45am Networking Session  <i>10:45am - 11:00am Stretch Break</i>	9:00am - 9:45am Mini Plenary  <i>9:45am - 10:15am Coffee Break</i>
10:45am - 11:45am Concurrent Sessions  <i>11:45am - 12:00pm Stretch Break</i>	11:00am - 12:30pm Interactive Concurrent Sessions  <i>12:30pm - 1:00pm Lunch Break</i>	10:15am - 11:15am Concurrent Sessions  <i>11:15am - 11:45am Lunch Break</i>
12:00pm - 1:00pm Keynote by John Francis	1:00pm - 2:00pm Keynote by Mami Hara  <i>2:00pm - 2:15pm Stretch Break</i>	11:45am - 12:30pm Closing Plenary
	2:15pm - 3:00pm Lightning Labs  2:15pm - 3:45pm Concurrent Session	

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd ~ OUR WORLD NOW

### Opening Plenary: 9:30am - 10:30am

Welcome: *Sarah Clark, Institute for Conservation Leadership*

Opening Blessing: *Chief Vincent Mann, Turtle Clan Chief of the Ramapough Lenape Nation; Board member - New Jersey Highlands Coalition*

DRWI Accomplishments: As the DRWI begins Phase 2+, we'll start with a look at our accomplishments over the last 8 years - combining on the ground highlights with the latest report of our progress and impact across the DRWI and on the ground within clusters.

*Presentation includes:*

- *Roland Wall, Academy of Natural Sciences*
- *Jenkintown Creek: Susan Harris, Cerulean; Upstream Suburban Philadelphia Cluster*
- *The Paulins Kill: Nathaniel Sajdak; Walkill River Watershed Management Group; New Jersey Highlands Cluster*
- *Cherry Valley: Cherry Valley: Ellen Lott, The Nature Conservancy; Poconos Kittatinny & Upper Lehigh Clusters*

Keynote: *Stuart Clarke, William Penn Foundation Watershed Protection Program Director*

Special Music: Takony Creek, from the Takony Creek Suite. *Composed and arranged by Professor Randy J. Gibson; brought to you as part of the Olney Culture Lab.*

**Please view *The Way of the Ramapough Lenape* on [YouTube](#). The Lenape are the indigenous people of eastern PA, southern NY, and northern NJ. The Turtle Clan of the Ramapough Lenape currently reside in northwestern NJ. The film was produced by the NJ Highlands Coalition and written, recorded and edited by Elliott Ruga.**

**Listen to the entire Takony Creek Suite at the [Olney Culture Lab](#).**

### Concurrent Workshop Sessions 10:45am - 11:45am

#### **Leading with Ease: Managing Stress in Uncertain Times**

This experiential session gives you an immediate set of tools to become a more mindful and resilient leader in the face of an always changing, uncertain future. The session teaches the principles and practices of mindfulness and breathwork that give participants personal strategies to improve stress and wellbeing. The session concludes with a brief group inquiry and discussion including aspects of the neuroscience and scientific evidence behind mindfulness, breath and stress reactivity. *Damian Ewens, Ocean State of Mind, MJ Kaplan, Institute for Conservation Leadership (Moderator)*

### **Exploring the Role of GSI in Big Storms: A DRWI Stormwater Cohort Discussion**

Flooding from Hurricane Ida left many wondering, is all the work we've been doing on stormwater management helping when it comes to big storms? Resilience to flooding is one of the many potential benefits of green stormwater infrastructure, or "GSI." But most GSI practices aim to control the first few inches of rain and the pollution from it, not the kind of torrent created by Ida. This session will kick off with an Ida story from the Brandywine Conservancy and explore questions raised by the DRWI Stormwater Cohort about the role of GSI in big storms in a discussion open to all. *Jen Adkins, American Rivers; Grant DeCosta, Brandywine Conservancy*

### **Assessing and Messaging the Impacts of Complementary Strategies**

This session will cover what has been learned and accomplished in Phase 2 and new efforts to track and highlight the impact of complementary strategies. In particular, session presenters will discuss the development of an updated and streamlined reporting framework that will help cluster organizations demonstrate the value of Complementary Strategies to funders, partners, and the public. You'll also have the opportunity to hear about and share highlights of upcoming outreach and policy work with your DRWI colleagues. *Alexis Schulman and Carol Collier, Academy of Natural Sciences; Alex Ambrose, ANJEC*

### **What We're Learning About the Impact of DRW Restoration & Land Protection Projects**

Come learn about findings to date from the three-year Restoration and Protection Project Impact Assessments. The assessments include modeling and sampling approaches to quantify how the DRWI funded capital projects completed by cluster partners are collectively benefitting water quality. While both projects are ongoing, hear about the interim results on both the modeling and sampling work. We'll also discuss ways the work can best support DRWI partners and inform our collective work going forward. *Abby Weinberg, Open Space Institute; Rachel Dawson, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; Dave Arscott and John Jackson, Stroud Water Research Center*

### **Carbon Markets: A Conversation**

Join Nick Richardson, Peter Howell, Peter Stein and your DRWI colleagues to share information and discuss opportunities and questions related to carbon markets and the role they can play in our work. The session begins with a brief presentation, followed by discussion. *Nick Richardson, Vermont Land Trust; Peter Howell, Open Space Institute; Peter Stein, Lyme Timber; Susan Beecher, Poconos Kittany Cluster (Moderator)*

### **Keynote by John Francis: 12:00pm - 1:00pm**

#### **Listening to the Water and Each Other to Discover the Way: A Conversation with John Francis**

The world is at a crossroad. The environmental challenges we face are a physical manifestation of our relationships with each other. We must ask ourselves bold questions about how we're engaging as humans to solve such complex problems. How are we defining success? As we tackle root causes, what is our responsibility to address inequities and people's daily struggles? Are we listening to the water and each other as we strive to redirect the future? John Francis is a scientist and environmental expert. His personal journey led him to refuse motorized transportation for 22 years and to stop speaking for 17 years during which time he completed three degrees including a PhD. John will share lessons about science and humanity through his unique lens. He will be joined in conversation by DRWI leader Stephanie Kreiser from the New Jersey Conservation Foundation to explore how listening with rapture will guide us to new solutions.

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## **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd ~ OUR WORLD AS IT'S EVOLVING**

### **Networking Plenary: 10:00am - 10:45am**

Join the DRWI for some semi-structured networking to connect with peers. Catch up with friends and meet some new faces!

### **Concurrent Workshop Sessions 11:00am - 12:30pm**

#### **Follow the Money: Putting Infrastructure Dollars to Work for You**

Our states and municipalities finally have funds for infrastructure thanks to the American Rescue Plan and Infrastructure Bill. So how can our organizations access those resources? And what can we do to maximize the percentage of these transportation and infrastructure dollars that are spent on water infrastructure, green infrastructure, trails, and other projects? Come hear from experts who can answer these and other key questions. *Chris Bason, Delaware Center for the Inland Bays; Ruth Hocker, Center for Watershed Protection; Sonia Szczesna, Tri-State Transportation Campaign; Kain Mateo, Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania and New Jersey (Moderator); Hosted by the DRWI Initiative Stewards*

## **Power and the Road to Equity**

Power influences equity in countless ways. Outcome justice means fair access and distribution of resources. Including stakeholders in decisions that affect them is process justice. Recognition equity means that individuals' concerns are considered regardless of direct participation. How do we consider power in our efforts to address equity in our environmental work? The panelists will speak with candor and curiosity as they explore issues that are too often undiscussable in the pursuit of environmental justice. *Carlos Clausell, Institute for Sustainable Communities; Leander Lacy, Lacy Consulting Services; Julie Ulrich, The Nature Conservancy; MJ Kaplan, Institute for Conservation Leadership (Moderator)*

## **Climate, Justice, and GSI: Messaging and Framing Solutions**

As extreme weather hits our neighborhoods, we know that stronger communities not only keep people safe, they also bounce back quicker. But many places in the Delaware River basin are not ready for what's become our new normal: frequent, devastating floods combined with sea-level rise. Helping communities and policymakers prepare for these impacts is as much a communications challenge as a planning one, and conservation and community voices can play a major role. Together, we can move the needle on resilience, and climate justice, by championing smart, equitable green infrastructure at the local level. Join us for a hands-on training and workshop covering messaging approaches, and providing breakout rooms to tackle specific local challenges. *Belinda Griswold and Adam Hymans, Resource Media*

## **Adaptive Collaboration: Six Vital Questions for Complex Strategy**

Watershed collaborative work is inherently complex, challenging strategic planning and doing. In this workshop we will:

- Explore 6 simple-yet-vital questions known as Strategy Knotworking to help us adaptively turn our ideas and ambitions into reality, in any context (collaboration, organization, family, community).
- Use answers to clarify how to: gain from diverse perspectives; identify and build ownership for enacting strategies; and, creatively adapt as the future unfolds.
- Discover ways to purposely weave together strategizing, operating, and evaluating as the work proceeds over months and years, creating a means to build strategy and evaluation into the fabric of the work itself.

*Nancy White, Full Circle Associates; David Furlow, ACS International Schools*

## **Keynote by Mami Hara: 1:00 - 2:00pm**

### **Leveraging Partnerships Amidst Persistent Change**

Traditional and siloed approaches to water management do not adequately address today's challenges - decades of contamination, accelerating impacts of climate change, aging infrastructure, and insufficient funding. Networks such as DRWI aim to apply more integrated strategies. Yet, we must persistently challenge ourselves to assess and evolve our approaches.

From her firsthand experience, Mami believes deeply in the power of networks. Mami will share examples of communities that have accelerated progress by investing in positive relationships and multi-sector partnerships. As an Asian woman, Mami is passionate about environmental justice and believes that we must focus on equity alongside science and policy. As we form new partnerships, we must consider who's at the table and how our actions affect people and communities who are too often harmed by interventions.

Mami will be joined in conversation with Patrick Starr, EVP of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and Amanda Bassow of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to explore options to evolve the DRWI, and strengthen partnerships to address the complexity of the challenges ahead.

## **Lightning Labs 2:15 pm - 3:00pm**

### **Bringing Together Mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge) and Western Science to Restore the Hauraki Gulf in Aotearoa New Zealand: Lessons from Five Years**

In 2016 Foundation North launched an Innovation Fund called GIFT ([Gulf Innovation Fund Together](#)), to enable breakthrough approaches to the complex issues facing the Hauraki Gulf. Through collective learning and reflecting, the work is approached through the wisdom of Te Ao Māori (indigenous Māori worldview and way of being) and collaboration. The presenters will share lessons from this work and explore how the blending of indigenous knowledge and evolving Western science creates new opportunities. *Jana Wilson and Kim Collins, Foundation North; DRWI Host: MJ Kaplan, Institute for Conservation Leadership*

### **Democratizing Water Access Through Local, Innovative Design Solutions**

With the inevitable future challenges of climate change and resource scarcity, how can we develop innovative solutions to address urgent issues such as water access and quality that apply to local context? We will learn from a case from Chile's informal settlement

communities where we used innovative passive design and low tech solutions to improve water quality at the same time as we considered resource production and quality of life issues. *Henry Glogau, 3XN Architects; Kristen Saacke Blunk, Headwaters LLC (Moderator)*

### **Solving Challenging Stormwater Issues in Highly Developed Areas**

Flooding is a serious and growing threat to communities and water quality in the Delaware Basin as the climate changes. This session will frame the present and future risk across the region and offer data and tools to understand the inequitable burdens of flood impacts to communities in the Delaware. We will explore a range of interventions to address flooding, many of which draw on the strengths of DRWI. Two case studies will highlight recent projects that seek to address flood impacts and bolster the resilience of communities and ecosystems. *Hallie Schwab, Open Space Institute; John Ferro, Wissahickon Trails; Chris Mendel, Pennypack Ecological Trust; Gail Farmer, Wissahickon Trails (Moderator)*

### **Concurrent Session 2:15 pm - 3:45pm**

#### **Community Science - New Tools that Can Enhance Community Impact on Civic Decision-Making**

This session will introduce attendees to the growing, new field of community-driven science, focusing on what it offers and how it is helping change the way communities influence civic decision-making and advocate for the environment. It will provide an overview of the powerful new technologies and tools the Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice and Health (CEEJH) and others are developing, and discuss other resources and strategies community-based organizations can use to boost their impact. It will discuss several examples of community science in action on water quality and watershed management issues, and what was accomplished and best practices. *Louise Lief, Lief Strategies; Dr. Sacoby Wilson, University of Maryland's Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health; DRWI Host: Julie Slavet, TTF Watershed Partnership*

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## **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24th ~ POSSIBILITIES AHEAD**

### **Mini Plenary: Climate Emergency - Feedback Loops 9:00am - 9:45am**

We will begin the plenary by watching the 13-minute introduction film of a five-part series that examines how human activity is setting off dangerous warming loops that are pushing the



climate to a point of no return - and what we need to do to stop them. We will be joined by Dr. Max Holmes to illuminate impacts of climate change on water systems and approaches to adaptation. Dr. Holmes is Acting President and Senior Scientist of the Woodwell Climate Research Center. He will be joined by Bonnie Waltch, the film's producer, to share how the film is igniting conversation about these critical issues. Dr. Holmes' work focuses on how climate change and other disturbances impact water and chemical cycles. He leads multiple river research networks including the Cape Cod Rivers Observatory, and co-directs the Global Rivers Observatory. Bonnie Waltch is the film's senior producer/writer. *Dr. Max Holmes, Woodwell Climate Research Center; Bonnie Waltch, Senior Producer/Writer; Abby Weinberg, Open Space Institute (Moderator)*

### **Concurrent Workshop Sessions: 10:15am - 11:15am**

#### **Delaware River Watershed Revolving Loan Fund - An Introduction**

The William Penn Foundation has capitalized a new revolving loan fund to provide bridge loans and financial guarantees to nonprofit organizations to accelerate land protection, restoration, trails, and related activities in the watershed. This session will explore opportunities to use the loan fund, which is administered by OSI. We'll hear from one of the Loan Fund's first borrowers and discuss how the loan fund can be a helpful resource for a variety of high impact, strategic projects. *Peter Howell, Open Space Institute; Laura Tessieri, North Jersey Resource Conservation and Development; Peter Stein, Lyme Timber (Moderator)*

#### **Working Together on Municipal Stormwater: What's Next?**

Local governments have a great deal of influence over how stormwater pollution is managed, but there are also significant barriers that prevent many from taking action. Collaboration — among municipalities and with environmental groups — can improve outcomes and reduce many administrative and financial barriers. Though it has been a long time priority for many advocates, municipal collaboration on stormwater has been limited. This session will explore how new federal funding, regulations, and community engagement might align to improve collaboration and ultimately grow the scale at which stormwater can be managed sustainably across the Delaware basin. *Lia Mastropolo, American Rivers; Susan Myerov, Pennsylvania Environmental Council; Jennifer Coffey, ANJEC*

#### **Climate Change & Flooding Resiliency Roundtable**

Climate change is a challenge that we are all facing, personally and through our conservation efforts throughout the basin. Recent flooding events caused by highly localized and intense rainfall are one example of climate-driven impacts that are likely to

increase in the future. Join this listening session to help frame the issue in the context of the DRWI Clusters and beyond. We will facilitate an interactive dialog about what the biggest climate-related threats are, where current efforts at mitigation are focused, where there are gaps in effort, where issues of environmental equity related to climate are a concern, and what partners might be engaged to help strengthen approaches that benefit all citizens of the watershed. Themes include, but are not necessarily limited to flood mitigation, community resilience, and issues of equity and inclusion. This will be an interactive session, so please come prepared to engage! *Discussion facilitated by DRWI Stewards: Andrew Homsey, University of Delaware Water Center; Kate Hutelmyer, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary*

### **How do I listen? How do I respond? – A Workshop on Combating Implicit Bias**

This workshop centers around an exploration of implicit bias and how participants can demonstrate equity in the way they listen and respond in collaborative gatherings. Participants will explore power structures at play, active listening and responses, and practice summarizing statements. *Joy Jackson, Institute for Conservation Leadership*

### **Closing Plenary: 11:45am - 12:30pm**

We close with Stuart Clarke of the William Penn Foundation sharing information about the recent evaluation of the DRWI, followed by an opportunity to synthesize our Winter Gathering experiences and a special look to the future as a reminder of the importance of our work together. *Stuart Clarke, William Penn Foundation; Dianne Russell, Institute for Conservation Leadership (Moderator)*