

2024 Northeast Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forests & Water Forum



November 20-21, 2024
 South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority
 Lake Whitney Water Plant
 Hamden, CT

DRAFT AGENDA¹

Wednesday, November 20th

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKERS
12:00 PM	Meet at South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA) Lake Whitney Water Treatment Plant – a bus for the watershed tour will be provided by RWA’s “Water Wagon” 🚌💧	South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority
12:00 – 4:30 PM	The field tour will feature multiple projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ RWA staff will present on the benefits of stormwater treatment systems, which are utilized when there is a lack of forested land within public drinking water supply watershed. ➤ The group will visit the site of the Seymour slash wall, where the steam weeder will be demonstrated on the invasive plant, Japanese stiltgrass. ➤ The tour will also feature a walk and discussion about the slash wall and the research behind it. A comparison can be seen between the area where deer have been excluded, and where deer have been left to roam free. 	South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority
5:00 – 7:00 PM	Optional Networking and Dinner (Bears Smokehouse BBQ, 470 James St, New Haven, CT 06513)	N/A

Thursday, November 21st

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKERS
8:30 – 9:00 AM	<i>Check-in and Coffee</i>	
9:00 – 9:15 AM	Introductions	Kira Jacobs, EPA Region 1

¹ The agenda is subject to change. Additional information will be added as speakers and sessions are confirmed.

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TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKERS
9:15 – 9:20 AM	Welcome	Steve Vitko, Regional Water Authority
9:20 – 9:45 AM	The Connection between Forests and Water	William Henley, Regional Water Authority
9:45 – 10:15 AM	Keynote Presentation	Robert Bonnie, Undersecretary, Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC), USDA
10:15 – 10:30 AM	<i>Break</i>	
10:30 – 10:45 AM	Framing the Day	Kira Jacobs, EPA Region 1 Annica McGuirk, National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)
10:45 – 11:00 AM	Field Trip Recap	Joshua Tracy, Regional Water Authority
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Success Stories from the Region	Michael Kent, Cape Atlantic Conservation District (NJ) Tim Abbott, Housatonic Valley Association (CT) David Dickson, CT Source Water Protection Prioritization GIS Tools, UConn (CT) TBD, Watershed Agricultural Council (NY)
12:00 – 12:45 PM	<i>Lunch on site</i>	
12:45 – 1:30 PM	Water Utility Presentations & Panel Discussion	John O'Neil, Manchester Water Works (NH) Alex Ashby, Albany Water Department (NY) Nick Kevey, West Virginia American Water (WV) <i>Moderated by Beth Garcia, EPA Region 3</i>
1:30 – 2:15 PM	Forestry Presentations & Panel Discussion	Chris Martin, State Forester of CT (CT) Charlie Laing, NYCDEP Forest Program Manager (NY) Beth Sassaman, Pennsylvania NRCS state biologist (PA) <i>Moderated by Karl Honkonen, USFS</i>
2:15 – 2:30 PM	<i>Break</i>	
2:30 – 3:15 PM	Demystifying Funding	Karl Honkonen, USFS Karen Sughrue, EPA Headquarters - Office of Water Matthew Vandersande, NRCS <i>Moderated by Katie Lynch, EPA Region 2</i>
3:15 – 4:00 PM	Small Group Breakouts	State-based and small group discussions covering important topics to move work forward within the state and regional forest and water partnerships. Partner mapping exercise by state and areas of interest – What resources exist in your states? (e.g., NRCS State Technical Committee)
4:00 – 4:30 PM	<i>Closing</i>	