

2024 Northeast Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forests & Water Forum



November 20-21, 2024

South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority

Lake Whitney Water Treatment Plant

900 Whitney Ave,

Hamden, CT 06517

FINAL AGENDA

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	<p>The field tour will feature multiple projects:</p> <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 the 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 at: Bear’s Smokehouse BBQ 470 James St, New Haven, CT 06513	

Thursday, November 21st

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKERS
8:30 – 9:00 AM	<i>Check-in & Coffee</i>	
9:00 – 9:15 AM	Introductions	Kira Jacobs, EPA Region 1
9:15 – 9:20 AM	Welcome to RWA!	Steve Vitko, RWA
9:20 – 9:45 AM	Forests & Drinking Water Supply	William Henley, RWA
9:45 – 10:15 AM	Framing the Day & Partnership Overview	Kira Jacobs, EPA Region 1 & Annica McGuirk, National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)

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TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKERS
10:15 – 10:30 AM	Partnership in Action: Efforts in Connecticut	Denise Savageau, NACD Northeast Region Chair
10:30 – 10:45 AM	<i>Break</i>	
10:45 – 11:00 AM	Field Trip Recap	Joshua Tracy, RWA
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Success Stories from the Region DIVERSIFICATION: The Key to Locally Led Conservation	Michael Kent, Cape Atlantic Conservation District (NJ)
	"Got Trees?" Thoughts on Forest Conservation, Water Quality and Climate Change	Tim Abbott, Housatonic Valley Association (CT)
	Tools for Source Water Protection and Watershed Assessment in CT	David Dickson, UConn (CT)
12:00 – 12:45 PM	<i>Lunch provided 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, NYC DEP 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 small group discussions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is our greatest success related to forests/water? 2. What is my greatest challenge in advancing work? 3. What resources already exist in my state? 4. How can collaboration and/or state-based partnerships help us achieve progress and address challenges?
4:00 – 4:30 PM	Closing Remarks & Next Steps	Ashley Arayas, The Cadmus Group