

# Organization for the Assabet River



## Workshop Presenters and Panelists

**Westborough, March 14, 2009**

**Fred Ayer** is the Executive Director of the Low Impact Hydropower Institute, Portland, Maine, and has been involved with hydroelectric projects and FERC relicensing since 1974. As a consultant he assisted the Avista Corporation in the successful collaborative relicensing of a 790 Mw project on the Clark Fork River in Montana and Idaho; advised the Catawba-Wateree Relicensing Coalition in North and South Carolina and led training sessions for US Forest Service and National Park Service officials on FERC relicensing. In 2007 Fred spoke at a Green Hydro conference sponsored by the World Wide Fund in Beijing, China. From 1983 through 1990 he served as Director of Environmental Affairs at the Bangor Hydro-Electric Company, where he was instrumental in developing the relicensing strategy for the 13 Mw West Enfield Project that included the removal of a dam in one river as mitigation for impacts on another. Fred holds a BA from Olivet College. E-mail: [fayer@lowimpacthydro.org](mailto:fayer@lowimpacthydro.org).

**Alison Field-Juma** is the Policy Director of the Organization for the Assabet River in Concord, Mass., where she uses science-based advocacy to improve the sustainable use and enjoyment of the Assabet and Concord rivers. At OAR Alison manages the Intel Assabet Aquifer Recharge Fund, works to improve stormwater management, and seeks compliance with river-related environmental policies and laws within the watershed. She directed the Environmental Governance Program of the African Center for Technology Studies in Nairobi, Kenya, specializing in dryland watershed management. She has taught natural resource management at Tufts University and was Conservation Administrator in Wellesley MA. Alison holds a BS in Biology from Tufts University and an MS in Natural Resource Policy & Planning from Cornell University. E-mail: [afieldjuma@assabetriver.org](mailto:afieldjuma@assabetriver.org).

**Ken Finkelstein** is an environmental scientist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration working in the National Ocean Service, Office of Response and Restoration. He represents NOAA as a natural resource trustee in New England and provides technical support to the EPA Region 1 staff. Ken's position includes the assessment of marine and aquatic pollution events often leading to settlements with responsible parties resulting in natural resource restoration. He is also an adjunct professor at Suffolk University teaching environmental science and coastal geology since 1988. Ken holds a PhD in Marine Sciences from the College of William and Mary. E-mail: [Ken.Finkelstein@noaa.gov](mailto:Ken.Finkelstein@noaa.gov).

**Dave Griffin** is a nature conservation photographer based in Maynard, Massachusetts. Combining his skills in storytelling, photojournalism, and fine art photography he works to promote the conservation of water and land resources. Dave has been a board member for the Organization for the Assabet River since 2001, and currently serves as its President. A longtime resident of Maynard, he is also President of the Board of Trustees for the Maynard Historical Society, a member of the Maynard Historical Commission, a Corporator for Emerson Hospital, and a member of NANPA. An avid kayaker, you'll often find Dave and his wife Betsy on a nearby river or lake--with camera in hand. Dave's website and blog can be found at: <http://dmg-photography.com>.

**Beth Lambert** is a fluvial geomorphologist and river restoration scientist for the Riverways Program, part of the Mass. Department of Fish and Game. She works around the state on dam removals and other river restoration projects. Her career in environmental science and restoration has taken her to Oregon, Alaska, northwest Canada, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. Beth

holds a BA in Geology, and an MS in fluvial geomorphology from Oregon State University in Corvallis. E-mail: [Beth.Lambert@state.ma.us](mailto:Beth.Lambert@state.ma.us).

**Lealdon Langley** is the Director of the Wetlands and Waterways Program of the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection where he is responsible for the statewide implementation of the Wetlands Protection Act, the Public Waterfront Act and Section 401 of the Clean Waters Act. Lealdon has worked at MassDEP for over 20 years, having served as Program Director for the Watershed Permitting Program overseeing Title 5, the Groundwater Discharge Permit Program, Water Management Act, Residuals and NPDES; as the Manager of the Water Management Act Program and in the Southeast Region's Wetlands and Waterways Program. Lealdon holds a BA in Biology from Hendrix College and an MA from the Center for Energy and Environmental Studies at Boston University. E-mail: [Lealdon.Langley@state.ma.us](mailto:Lealdon.Langley@state.ma.us).

**Gary Mercer** is a Senior Water Resources Engineer for Camp Dresser & McKee (CDM) where he has worked for more than 20 years on water quality projects. His projects have included modeling the Charles River, Blackstone River, and Merrimack River in Massachusetts as well as the Chicago Waterway/Upper Illinois River System in Chicago, and Rio Tiete and Rio das Velhas in Brazil. Gary holds Bachelors and Masters degrees from Cornell University in Civil and Environmental Engineering. E-mail: [MercerGW@cdm.com](mailto:MercerGW@cdm.com).

**Alicia Norris** works with Mass. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife where she is involved in the development of Target Fish Communities and Indexes of Biotic Integrity as well as her current work on coldwater conservation guidelines and mapping. Alicia holds a BS in marine biology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and an MS in fisheries biology from Auburn University, AL. E-mail: [Alicia.Norris@state.ma.us](mailto:Alicia.Norris@state.ma.us).

**David Pincumbe** is the water quality specialist in the Municipal Permits Program of the Environmental Protection Agency Region 1, with a focus on nutrient-related water quality impairments and nutrient-related wastewater permitting issues. He has over 25 years of experience working for US EPA on water quality issues. Dave has a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Michigan. E-mail: [pincumbe.david@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:pincumbe.david@epamail.epa.gov).

**Alice Rojko** is with the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection/Division of Watershed Management and serves as the regional basin planner for the watersheds in the Central Region of Massachusetts which includes the Assabet River. She has over 20 years experience in the environmental field working on such diverse issues as urban runoff, lakes management, wetlands protection, sediment characterization, surface water quality standards and watershed management. Most recently she was the Watershed Team Leader for the Millers River under EOEEA's Mass. Watershed Initiative Program. Alice holds a BS in Biology from the University of Massachusetts/Dartmouth and an MS in Environmental Engineering from Northeastern University. E-mail: [Alice.Rojko@state.ma.us](mailto:Alice.Rojko@state.ma.us).

## **Maynard, March 28, 2009**

**Alison Field-Juma** is the Policy Director of the Organization for the Assabet River in Concord, Mass., where she uses science-based advocacy to improve the sustainable use and enjoyment of the Assabet and Concord rivers. At OAR Alison manages the Intel Assabet Aquifer Recharge Fund, works to improve stormwater management, and seeks compliance with river-related environmental policies and laws within the watershed. She directed the Environmental Governance Program of the African Center for Technology Studies in Nairobi, Kenya, specializing in dryland watershed management. She has taught natural resource management at

Tufts University and was Conservation Administrator in Wellesley MA. Alison holds a BS in Biology from Tufts University and an MS in Natural Resource Policy & Planning from Cornell University. E-mail: [afieldjuma@assabriver.org](mailto:afieldjuma@assabriver.org).

**Patrick Field** is Managing Director of North American Programs at the Consensus Building Institute (<http://cbuilding.org>) and Associate Director of the MIT-Harvard Public Disputes Program. Patrick has helped thousands of stakeholders reach agreement on natural resource, land use, water, and air issues across the United States and Canada. He is experienced at working with diverse large groups, including those in high conflict and those seeking collaborative action. Patrick often works with and between local, regional, state, and federal governments and is on the roster of conflict resolution professionals of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution and the Massachusetts Office of Dispute Resolution. He is co-author of the award-winning book, *Dealing with an Angry Public*. Patrick holds an MCP in Urban Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. E-mail: [pfield@cbuilding.org](mailto:pfield@cbuilding.org).

**Bryant Firmin** has been with the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection for 31 years as a staff Biologist and Environmental Engineer. He was formerly Chief of the Ground-Water Discharge Regulation Section and for the past 10 years in the Surface Water Permitting Section, coordinating compliance and enforcement, policy and special projects. Bryant holds a BS in Biology and an MS in Sanitary Engineering. E-mail: [Bryant.Firmin@state.ma.us](mailto:Bryant.Firmin@state.ma.us).

**Jennifer Gensel** is the Circuit Rider for the Central Region of the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection. Prior to her position at MassDEP, Jennifer worked as an environmental consultant and wetland scientist focusing on wetland delineation, restoration and habitat studies. She has considerable knowledge of the local, state and federal environmental permitting process. Jennifer holds a BA in Planetary and Space Science from Western Connecticut State University and an MS in Environmental Science from the University of New Haven. E-mail: [Jennifer.Gensel@state.ma.us](mailto:Jennifer.Gensel@state.ma.us).

**Brian Graber** is the Associate Director of the River Restoration Program for the Greater Northeast Region of American Rivers. He is a fluvial geomorphologist and water resources engineer and has worked on all aspects of more than 30 dam removal projects from restoration design to community outreach. He provides scientific and engineering assistance, identifies funding possibilities, coordinates project managers and diverse project partners, and develops guidance materials for projects to restore natural river function by removing or retrofitting instream barriers such as dams and poorly functioning culverts. As River Restoration Scientist for the Mass. Riverways Program 2003-07 he led the development of the state's Priority Project Program to restore rivers for multiple species and recreational opportunities for the surrounding communities through dam removal, stream crossing replacement, daylighting, and instream habitat enhancement. Brian holds a BS in Geography and Mathematics from Dartmouth College, and an MS in Civil Engineering and Geography from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. E-mail: [bgraber@amrivers.org](mailto:bgraber@amrivers.org).

**Dave Griffin** is a nature conservation photographer based in Maynard, Massachusetts. Combining his skills in storytelling, photojournalism, and fine art photography he works to promote the conservation of water and land resources. Dave has been a board member for the Organization for the Assabet River since 2001, and currently serves as its President. A longtime resident of Maynard, he is also President of the Board of Trustees for the Maynard Historical Society, a member of the Maynard Historical Commission, a Corporator for Emerson Hospital, and a member of NANPA. An avid kayaker, you'll often find Dave and his wife Betsy on a nearby river or lake--with camera in hand. Dave's website and blog can be found at: <http://dmg-photography.com>.

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**Todd Richards** has been a biologist with the Mass. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife since 1992. He coordinates stream survey and inventory procedures with the five MDFW district offices and maintains the fisheries database, and outlines potential restoration projects in streams and rivers. He has worked on warmwater fisheries and conducted environmental reviews in the past. Todd has a BS in Wildlife Management from University of Maine and an MS in Fisheries from Virginia Tech. E-mail: [Todd.Richards@state.ma.us](mailto:Todd.Richards@state.ma.us).

**Congresswoman Niki Tsongas** is serving her second term representing the Fifth Congressional District of Massachusetts as a member of the US House of Representatives. She is the first woman to be elected to Congress from the state of Massachusetts in 25 years. In 2009, Congresswoman Tsongas joined the [Natural Resources Committee](#) which oversees legislation related to domestic energy production, National Parks, rivers, forests, oceans and wilderness areas. Congresswoman Tsongas also serves on the [House Armed Services Committee](#) and on the [Budget Committee](#). Niki Tsongas is known for her roots in the Fifth District and her years of public service to the region. She has offices in Lowell, Lawrence and Acton, as well as staff holding office hours in Haverhill, to serve her constituents. Acton office: [Jane.Adams@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jane.Adams@mail.house.gov).

**Mark Wamser** has been an engineer at Gomez and Sullivan Engineers for the past 16 years. His work has focused on the licensing of hydroelectric projects and, over the last eight years, on the dam removal and river restoration field. Mark holds a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of New Hampshire. E-mail: [mwamser@gomezandsullivan.com](mailto:mwamser@gomezandsullivan.com).

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