

2020 CONSERVATION BANKING WEBINAR SERIES

SPEAKER BIOS

Webinar #2: Banking Perspectives – The Business of Buying & Selling Credits

Katie Allen leads The Conservation Fund's Conservation Leadership Network (CLN) in the development, execution and evaluation of The Fund's range of services related to innovative partnership programs, capacity building trainings, sustainability consulting and technical assistance. Katie works with community, governmental, and corporate partners to build capacity among leaders to enable on the ground conservation solutions and reach sustainable economic development goals.

Since 2010, Katie has designed and led several national and place-based initiatives for The Fund including the Federal Lands Livability Initiative, the National Workshop on Water Quality Trading, and Appalachian Gateway Community workshops and sustainable tourism assessments. She serves as facilitator for CLN's long-standing and highly-acclaimed Balancing Nature and Commerce Course, Mitigation Banking for Inter-Agency Review Teams Course, and Conservation Banking Course, as well as their regional offerings across the country. She holds a Masters of City and Regional Planning in Environmental and Land Use Planning from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and a Bachelor of Science in Communications from Boston University.

Evan Branosky is Program Manager, Environmental Policy at the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). In this capacity, he implements NAHB's regulatory policy program for Clean Water Act Section 404 (wetlands) and Waters of the United States. He provides state and local associations with technical assistance on compensatory mitigation, wetland delineation, and the Endangered Species Act and National Historic Preservation Act; analyzes the effects of federal, state, and local regulations and programs on the home building industry and prepares technical papers, testimony, and comments to support federal regulatory negotiations.

Evan has extensive experience in regulatory compliance and environmental finance. Previously, he managed the District of Columbia's Stormwater Retention Credit trading program, which facilitates trades of volume-based credits to achieve post-construction stormwater requirements and finance green infrastructure. He also worked at the World Resources Institute, where he led the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program's Trading and Offsets Workgroup and developed water quality trading programs in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Evan has also worked at consulting firms, where he advised surface water offset programs in California, led the metrics team for a Water Fund in Delaware and Pennsylvania, and created the compliance strategy for a client's nationwide real property portfolio.

He holds a B.S. in agricultural science from Rutgers University and an M.P.P in environmental policy from the University of Maryland.

Matt Gause is the Ecological Resources & Land Stewardship Director at Westervelt Ecological Services and oversees Westervelt's new project entitlement and operations and is also responsible for overseeing stewardship activities on over 27,000 acres of conserved properties in California, the Rocky Mountain region and the southeastern United States. Mr. Gause has over 27 years of experience with wetland and habitat restoration including the restoration of vernal pools, riparian forest, tidal marsh, and floodplain wetlands. He has also worked on the establishment and operation of over 24 conservation banks in California and has extensive experience identifying and developing mitigation for projects permitted under the federal Clean Water Act, federal Endangered Species Act and California state Endangered Species Act. Additionally, Mr. Gause

has managed conserved lands for more than 15 threatened or endangered species on preserves throughout California.

Mr. Gause also provides site suitability analyses for mitigation projects, including restoration suitability, threatened and endangered species, easement restriction analysis, and future land management cost estimation. He also develops and implements both baseline and long-term land management and monitoring strategies for mitigation and conservation landscapes. Mr. Gause is a Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner (CERP) and received a Bachelor of Science in Botany from the University of California at Davis.

Jennifer Oelke-Farley serves as the Natural Resources Program Lead in the Environmental Planning and Conservation Division at Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Headquarters, located at Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. Jennifer manages marine and terrestrial resources programs providing support and services to U.S. Navy installations world-wide. Additionally, Jennifer provides leadership and guidance for the development of conservation focused encroachment partnering initiatives and advanced mitigation solutions and tools. Jennifer joined the Navy team as a Natural Resources Specialist in 2008 and has completed tours at NAVFAC Marianas in Guam and NAVFAC Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia based in Naples, Italy. Jennifer holds a Master's degree in Wildlife Biology and Management from James Cook University, Townsville, Australia and a BS in Marine Biology from the University of New England, Biddeford, Maine.

Mike Ruth is an Ecologist on the Project Development & Environmental Review Team. He is responsible for guiding the framework for FHWA's policy for wetlands, wetland and stream mitigation, and for promoting the NEPA/404 synchronization process. Mike is also closely associated with several FHWA initiatives including Ecological, Planning and Environmental Linkages, and Programmatic Mitigation Plans.

Mike has worked as an Ecologist/Geologist for more than 24 years and has been with FHWA since 2008 working in the New York Division and Headquarters. Prior to working with FHWA, Mike worked with the USACE Regulatory Division-Savannah District as a Senior Project Manager. He holds a Master's of Science degree in Environment Earth Science from The Johns Hopkins University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from the University of Maryland. Mike is also a Professional Registered Geologist in 7 southeastern states.

Gray Stevens is the Managing Partner of Sandy Creek Partners, LLC, a leading developer of mitigation and habitat banks throughout the U.S. Gray has a fourteen-year track record as a successful mitigation banker with extensive experience in mitigation bank management, habitat offset markets, real estate investing, and environmental finance. He is a regular instructor on the business of banking at the USFWS Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV and speaks frequently on the topic of successful mitigation banking practices.

Gray graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BA in Philosophy from Rhodes College and received his MBA in finance from Northwestern University (Kellogg). He spent 15 years as an investment banker with Merrill Lynch in Chicago, where he led the firm's Midwest Private Equity effort. His favorite pastimes include being outside doing just about anything and traveling with his three (almost) adult children.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information, go to the [Webinar Series Information](#) page. All webinars will be recorded and uploaded to this website.