

Panelists



Holly B. White, AICP, CFM

Resilience Planner, N.C. Office of Recovery and Resiliency

Holly B. White is a Resilience Planner with the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency where she is passionate about working at the intersection of people, communities, and environmental issues. Holly is a certified planner (AICP) and certified floodplain manager (CFM) with extensive local government, planning experience. She is skilled in stakeholder engagement, partnership building, ideation, floodplain management, and resiliency. Holly holds a Bachelor of Science in Urban and Regional Planning (2003), with a focus in Coastal Planning, and a minor in Geology from East Carolina University. Holly serves as a Regional Representative for the NC Association of Floodplain Managers and on the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership Citizen Committee and Leadership Council.



Marc Recktenwald

Director of Mitigation Services, N.C. Department of Environmental Quality

Marc Recktenwald joined DEQ as Director of the Division of Mitigation Services in January 2022. He oversees all aspects of the division, which is responsible for developing and implementing high-quality, watershed planning-based compensatory mitigation (stream, wetland, buffer, and nutrient offset) for sale to private and public developers. In 2022, the Division was also tasked with developing and implementing the state's Natural Infrastructure Flood Mitigation Program and North Carolina's first Statewide Flood Resiliency Blueprint.

Marc brings over 25 years of local and state experience developing and implementing programs that use watershed, science-driven approaches to solving watershed issues. He previously served as the City of Charlotte's Water Quality and Environmental Permitting Program Manager for eight years. Before that, he helped develop the state's predecessor for the current Division of Mitigation Services, known then as the Ecosystem Enhancement Program. He also worked for North Carolina State University in several staff and program development roles. Marc has also served in many leadership roles in state, regional, and national professional stormwater and water resource organizations.



Dr. Ruth Akintoye

Senior Flood Planning Associate, American Flood Coalition

Dr. Akintoye is the Senior Flood Planning Associate at the American Flood Coalition, where she strategizes approaches to advance flood resilience. Prior to joining AFC, Ruth conducted research in the intersection of environmental science and public health. She enjoys synthesizing complex scientific information for widespread applications. With a background as an Environmental Health Scientist, Ruth's work is able to inform political leaders, nonprofit organizations, academic experts, and a range of community stakeholders.

Ruth holds a bachelor's degree in environmental science from University of Maryland, Baltimore County, a master's degree in public health from Drexel University and PhD in Environmental Science from LSU.



Chuck Heustess

Executive Director, Economic Development, Bladen County, NC

Chuck Heustess grew up in Bladen and was a marketing director for the region's Council of Government unit before joining the economic development group, Bladen's Bloomin Agri-Industrial Inc. in 1998 as its Executive Director. Under Chuck's leadership, the organization which is a public-private partnership has helped create 2,500 jobs with a variety of programs including buying and selling several buildings to new enterprises, renovating more than 20 commercial sites to spur development, two office parks, and managing revolving loan funds. The projects have entailed more than \$22.4 million in construction spending.

Organizations



N.C. Office of Recovery and Resiliency

N.C. Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR) is a division of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency manages several programs that support long-term disaster recovery and resiliency including homeowner recovery, infrastructure recovery, affordable housing, resiliency, strategic buyout, and local government grants and loans.

NC Department of Environmental Quality Division of Mitigation Services

NC Department of Environmental Quality Division of Mitigation Services (DMS) is a state Department of Environmental Quality initiative that restores and protects wetlands and waterways for future generations while offsetting unavoidable environmental impacts from development projects. DMS offers four In-Lieu Fee mitigation programs designed to assist private and public developers in meeting state and federal compensatory mitigation and nutrient offset requirements.



American Flood Coalition

American Flood Coalition (AFC) is a nonpartisan group of political, military, business, and local leaders that have come together to drive adaptation to higher seas, stronger storms, and more frequent flooding. The coalition advances solutions that support and protect flood-affected communities. The AFC's mission is driving transformational adaptation to protect communities across the country from higher seas, stronger storms, and more frequent flooding.