



Local Government Advisory Committee

to the Chesapeake Executive Council

Speaker Bios
December 1-2, 2022
Norfolk, VA

Chuck Herrick

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Chair of CAC Stewardship & Engagement Subcommittee

Retired in December 2016, Dr. Herrick has consulted extensively with a wide range of U.S. government agencies and water utility organizations, providing analytical input and strategic direction on issues including climate change adaptation, natural resource damage assessment, sustainable fisheries management, valuation of ecosystem services, and control of invasive species. A leading expert in program evaluation, he designed program theories of change, logic models, and real-time evaluation frameworks to elucidate and characterize a wide variety of program delivery mechanisms, process outputs, outcomes, and impacts for major foundations and government agencies.

Dr. Herrick is a seasoned executive with oversight experience across all corporate functions, including accounting and finance, human resources and benefits management, legal affairs, facilities management, business development, IT, administration and professional support services, contracts management, corporate communications, mergers and acquisitions, and risk management and audits. Throughout his career, Dr. Herrick has maintained an active association with academia, teaching regularly and publishing frequently in the peer reviewed literature. He is also active in non-profit board service.

Ben McFarlane

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Senior Regional Planner, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

Ben McFarlane is a Senior Regional Planner for the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, the regional planning organization for southeastern Virginia. Mr. McFarlane has been with the HRPDC for fourteen years, working primarily on the Commission's coastal resources management efforts. He is the lead planner for the Commission's work on coastal resiliency, coastal zone management, and military-locality coordination. He received a B.A. in Economics and a Master's of Urban and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and a Certified Floodplain Manager.

Justin Shafer

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Water Quality Project Manager, City of Norfolk

Justin Shafer is a Project Manager with the City of Norfolk's Department of Public Work- Storm Water Management Division. He has a Masters in Biology from Old Dominion University, where he also attained his Bachelors in Geography. Justin's graduate research and most of his career has focused on the study, protection, and restoration of coastal ecosystems and on the management of water in coastal urban settings. In his current role Justin helps the City of Norfolk meet regulatory water quality requirements such as the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, develops innovative approaches to flood resiliency,

manages updates of Norfolk stormwater GIS mapping, regularly applies for grant funding, and coordinates various departments and community partners in the implementation of green infrastructure projects.

Skip Stiles

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Executive Director, Wetlands Watch

William A. (Skip) Stiles, Jr. is executive director of Wetlands Watch, a statewide nonprofit environmental group based in Norfolk, VA. In this position he has been involved in sea level rise adaptation work at the community level for over 12 years.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Stiles was an independent consultant, providing editorial and public policy services to a number of clients on issues related to science, the environment, and public policy.

Before that, Mr. Stiles served in a variety of senior staff positions during 22 years in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was chief of staff for Congressman George E. Brown, Jr. of California, staff director of the House Agriculture research and environment subcommittee, and Legislative Director for the House Science Committee.

He is the author of a number of publications on sea level rise and adaptation. He served on the Virginia Climate Change Commission in 2008. Together with his oceanographer wife, Dr. Margaret Mulholland, he teaches a graduate class in public policy at Old Dominion University. He lives in Norfolk, VA, and is a graduate of the College of William and Mary.

Dr. Jessica Whitehead

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Executive Director, Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience, Old Dominion University

Dr. Jessica Whitehead is the Joan P. Brock Endowed Executive Director of the Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (ICAR) at Old Dominion University. Within the Commonwealth, she is a member of the Virginia Coastal Resilience Technical Advisory Committee. She also serves on the American Meteorological Society's Board on Outreach and Informal Education. She earned her Doctor of Philosophy in geography and Master of Science in meteorology from The Pennsylvania State University and a Bachelor of Science in physics with a concentration in meteorology from the College of Charleston.

Liz Chudoba

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Director, Water Quality Monitoring Initiative, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Liz graduated from James Madison University in 2008 with a degree in Biology. From there, she received a MS of Marine Science in aquatic ecology from the University of North Carolina Wilmington in 2012 and a Master's of Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School focusing on water resources law in 2013. Liz is the Water Quality Monitoring Initiative Director based in the Virginia office. She manages all of the Alliance's water quality monitoring projects throughout the watershed, including the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative and RiverTrends.