



2026 Water Summit Presenter Bios

Myra Reece SCDES Director



Myra Reece is the Agency Director of the S.C. Department of Environmental Services, overseeing the bureaus of Air Quality, Coastal Management, Land and Waste Management, Regional and Laboratory Services, and Water. Director Reece works collaboratively with state and federal agencies, local governments, businesses and communities to ensure protection of South Carolina's natural resources while balancing the state's economic and environmental interests.

Director Reece served in leadership roles with the former S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) for more than 30 years, including as a regional office director and chief of the Bureau of Air Quality prior to becoming DHEC's Director of Environmental Affairs. She currently serves as the Chair of WaterSC, as SCDES is the lead coordinating agency for that statewide water planning initiative.

In the summer of 2022, Myra was named president of the Environmental Council of States (ECOS), the national non-profit, non-partisan association of state and territorial environmental agency leaders. ECOS plays a critical role in facilitating a quality relationship among federal and state agencies across the country.

Myra previously served in leadership roles with ECOS as Planning Committee Chair,

Secretary-Treasurer, and Vice President. As "past-president" of ECOS, she continues to be a part of important national conversations about successes and challenges of protecting human health and the environment.

Director Reece received a bachelor's degree in microbiology from Clemson University and a master's degree in public health from the University of South Carolina. She is also a graduate of the Management Academy for Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a graduate of the Southern Center of Excellence in Environmental Health at Emory University and has obtained professional certification as a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager.

Jennifer Welte Georgia Environmental Protection Division



Jennifer Welte is the Assistant Branch Chief for Georgia EPD's Watershed Protection Branch. She oversees the state's Regional Water Planning process and has been involved in Georgia's water planning efforts for the past 12 years. Jennifer received a bachelor of science in civil engineering from Georgia Tech, a law degree from Georgia State University, and has previously practiced as an environmental attorney.

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Jennifer has worked in the Watershed Protection Branch of EPD for over 22 years in a variety of roles, including water quality modeler, wetlands program manager (responsible for the issuance of 401 water quality certifications and EPD's participation in Georgia's compensatory mitigation program), and Regulatory Support Program manager (overseeing the development of regulations for the Branch).

Adrienne Wright SCDES



Adrienne Wright is an environmental engineer with the S.C. Department of Environmental Services (SCDES), where she serves as a key member of the Domestic Wastewater Permitting Section. In her current role, she develops complex NPDES permits for both major and minor wastewater facilities across South Carolina, ensuring regulatory compliance and supporting the state's longterm environmental stewardship.

Her career spans government, private industry, and consulting, giving her a uniquely comprehensive perspective on environmental regulation and operational realities. Adrienne began her professional journey at S.C. DHEC in the Superfund program and later gained experience in industrial wastewater and mining programs. She went on to spend eight years with Dominion Energy, where she was responsible for air permitting and sustainability reporting, contributing to major corporate environmental initiatives. Prior to returning to public service in 2023, she worked as an environmental consultant, advising clients on permitting, compliance, and environmental strategy.

Adrienne holds an engineering degree from Clemson University. She is deeply committed to advancing sciencebased decisionmaking, sustainability, and public service, and she brings that passion to her work every day at SCDES.

Britney Prebis Charleston Waterkeeper



Britney Prebis serves as Charleston Waterkeeper's Community Science Manager. Passionate about connecting the community of Charleston to their waterways, Britney manages Charleston Waterkeeper's Creek Watcher and Microplastic Monitoring water quality programs.

Britney joined Charleston Waterkeeper in 2022 as an intern while earning her Master of Science in Environmental and Sustainability Studies degree at the College of Charleston. Working with the College's Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences, she developed Charleston Waterkeeper's microplastics monitoring program – the first community science program of its kind looking at microplastics concentrations in the Charleston Harbor watershed.

Before moving to Charleston, Britney's love for water brought her to Florida Gulf Coast University where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science. There she undertook a variety of water quality research projects, including the first study to quantify microplastic concentrations in the Southwest Florida region.

Shea McCarthy SCDES



Shea McCarthy serves as the SCDES Nonpoint Source Program Coordinator. The state's Nonpoint Source Program provides technical, educational, and financial assistance to restore and protect water quality in South Carolina.

Shea holds an MS in Environmental Health Sciences and a BS in Public Health from the University of South Carolina.

Courtney Kimmel
Port Royal Sound
Foundation



Courtney Kimmel is the Director of Conservation for the Port Royal Sound Foundation, in the Southern Lowcountry region. The Port Royal Sound Foundation is focused conservation of the Port Royal Sound and is developing the PRSound Science initiative as a comprehensive watershed-wide monitoring and conservation outreach effort to bring more credible environmental into decision making processes for the region.

Kimmel has a background in the social sciences of natural resource management with degrees in economics, political science, and natural resource management, and also serves as a Professor of Practice in Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources.

leadership for licensing and compliance at 28 hydropower stations in the Carolinas and Midwest, and drought response coordination and long-range water supply planning for 39 reservoirs in the Carolinas. Lineberger's team also leads planning and management of 140 public recreation areas around the Carolinas' reservoirs and oversees shoreline management planning and lake use permitting programs on over 2900 miles of shoreline.

Lineberger has been involved in relicensing all of Duke Energy's licensed hydropower stations except one and led successful negotiation of several related stakeholder agreements, including the 70-party Catawba-Wateree Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement. He has been very involved in regional water resource planning across the Carolinas. He was one of the founding members of the Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group and currently serves as the group's Vice Chair. He also worked in power plant siting and land use planning earlier in his career.

Dave Chestnut
SCDES



Dave holds a master's degree in biology from the University of South Carolina and has led the SCDHEC/SCDES Ambient Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program since 1985.

Since 2009, he has also represented the eight EPA Region 4 states on the National Water Quality Monitoring Council.

Jeff has a BS in civil engineering from NC State and is a licensed Professional Engineer in both Carolinas. Prior to Duke Energy, he served in the US Navy as a nuclear submarine officer.

Jeff Lineberger
Duke Energy



Jeff Lineberger has been with Duke Energy for 36 years and is General Manager of Water Strategy, Hydro Licensing and Lake Services, providing

Melanie Ruhlman
Save Our Saluda



Melanie Ruhlman is a water resources specialist serving as president of Save Our Saluda and watershed manager for Easley Combined Utilities focusing on source water protection in the Upper Saluda Watershed.

Melanie earned her B.S. in Forestry from North Carolina State University in 1990 and her M.S. in Forest Hydrology from the University of Georgia in 1996. She has spent over 25 years working in water resources management for private consulting, industry, *continued...*

and government organizations, and with nonprofit groups in Georgia and more recently here in South Carolina. nonprofit groups in Georgia and more recently here in South Carolina.

Her areas of expertise include watershed assessment and planning, hydrology, water quality, erosion and sediment control, stormwater management, and stream restoration. She lives on the North Saluda River in Marietta, S.C., and enjoys paddling, biking, hiking, camping and native landscaping.

Save Our Saluda's mission: Save Our Saluda is a nonprofit watershed organization in the Upstate of South Carolina whose mission is to protect and restore the Upper Saluda Watershed. Save Our Saluda identifies threats to the Saluda River and its tributaries and seeks effective solutions through cooperation with partnering organizations and volunteers and works to educate the community and increase awareness of the watershed, water resource issues, and the need to help protect local rivers to keep them clean and flowing for future generations.

Jaclin DuRant SCDES

Jaclin DuRant currently works for the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services in Anderson, S.C., as a South Carolina Adopt-a-Stream (SC AAS) program coordinator. SC AAS educates and engages community members to monitor water quality statewide.

Jaclin holds an MS in Conservation Ecology and Sustainable Development from the University of Georgia and a BS in Biology from the University of South Carolina.



Joe Koon SCDES

Joe Koon is the Director of the Division of Water Resources in SCDES's Bureau of Water. He oversees Hydrology, Source Water Withdrawals, Underground Injection Control, and Private Well programs. These programs focus on planning, coordination and management of the State's water resources.

Joe has over 25 years of public and private sector experience in a variety of environmental and natural resources programs focused on water and land protection. He currently represents SCDES as a State Agency Member of the S.C. Drought Response Committee and on the S.C. Water Resource Center Advisory Council. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Geology from Clemson University in 2000.



Tricia H. Kilgore Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority

Tricia H. Kilgore is the Director of Technology and Innovation at Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority. She started her engineering career as a drinking water regulator then worked as a consultant before joining the utility side in 2008. At BJWSA, Tricia has worked in engineering, capital projects management and operations. In her present role, she is focused on sustainability, data management, reuse, asset management, GIS, emergency preparedness, safety, research and innovation.

Tricia has engineering degrees from Virginia Tech and Loughborough University in the UK. She is a past president of the SC Section of the WaterReuse Association and currently the regulatory chair for WRSC.



John Boyer
CDM Smith



John Boyer is a Senior Project Manager with CDM Smith. John has over 30 years of diversified experience in water resources planning and management, including development of state and regional water plans in South Carolina, Georgia, Connecticut, Ohio, and Missouri.

For nearly 20 years, John has worked with state agencies and stakeholders to build and apply surface water quantity models in South Carolina and groundwater models in Georgia in support of their ongoing water planning efforts. Since 2020, John has also served as the facilitator for six of South Carolina's River Basin Councils.

Nuclear Power Station Units 2 & 3. He also serves presently as a member of the Winthrop University Board of Trustees. He is past Chairman of the Catawba-Wateree Basin Advisory Commission and member of the Catawba River Keeper Foundation. He served 8 years on the York County Council representing District 7 and prior to that was Chairman/Member of the York County Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals.

He is a graduate of Winthrop University. He is married to his wife, Kim, for 42 years, has 4 children and 6 grandchildren.

Lexi Thomas Toole
SCDES



Lexi Thomas Toole currently works for the S.C. Department of Environmental Services in Columbia, S.C., where she helps coordinate the SC Adopt-a-Stream program. The program monitors water quality throughout the state by deploying trained volunteers.

She is a graduate of Clemson University where she studied Environmental and Natural Resources with a concentration in Conservation Biology.

Samantha Porzelt
Clemson Cooperative Extension



Samantha Porzelt is a Water Resources Agent with Clemson Cooperative Extension, serving Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties. In her current role, Samantha co-coordinates the Ashley Cooper Stormwater Education Consortium and serves as program coordinator for Clemson Extension's Master Rain Gardener program.

Her work focuses on using native plants to improve stormwater management and enhance wildlife habitat in urban landscapes.

Rick Lee
S.C. Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council



Rick Lee is the current Chairman of the S.C. Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council. He has held that position for 8 years and has most recently spearheaded the restart of the V.C. Summer Nuclear Power Station Units 2 & 3.

F. Allan Clum
Mount Pleasant Waterworks



With over 20 years of experience working in water resource management, Allan Clum is the General Manager of Mount Pleasant Waterworks (MPW) in South Carolina. He earned a master's in environmental studies from the Medical University of South Carolina

and a bachelor's in science from the College of Charleston. Clum has focused his career on water and wastewater operations and management, guided by the belief that a community's water quality reflects its quality of life.

Under his leadership, MPW secured S&P Global AAA and Aaa Moody's bond ratings, ranked #2 on South Carolina's Best Places to Work list, and he earned recognition as one of the state's 500 most influential leaders, one of only four utility professionals honored.

Clum engages with regional and state water associations, advocating for policies that protect water resources and promote innovation in utility management. He is recognized for collaborating with stakeholders and mentoring leaders entering the field.

Outside of work, Allan spends time outdoors with his wife, Caroline, and their three daughters, or catching a wave at the closest local beach.

James G. Bagley, Jr. **City of Rock Hill**

As the current Deputy City Manager and previous CIO and Utilities Director for the City of Rock Hill, Mr. Bagley manages the Utilities; Public Works; Parks, Recreation and Tourism; General Services; Information Technology Services; Risk and Emergency Management Departments and the City On-Site Clinic. He is a past president of the South Carolina Society of Professional Engineers; has presided over the South Carolina Association of Municipal Power Systems Board and the Piedmont Municipal Power Agency. He is a member of the APPA, IEEE, and Power Engineering Society. He is currently Presiding over the Catawba Wateree Water Management Group, the South Carolina director of Mutual Aid, and is serving an appointment on the Drought Response Committee for South Carolina.



University, and a Masters degree in Business Administration from Winthrop University. He is a licensed professional engineer, certified electrical contractor, and a nationally registered EMT.

Mr. Bagley attends Westminster Presbyterian Church where he is an ordained deacon and has taught Sunday School and led small groups. He coached at Westminster Catawba Christian School for 15 years and chaperoned led the Dominican Republic Mission trip for nearly 20 years.

Dr. Hope Mizzell **State Climatologist**



Dr. Hope Mizzell has served as the South Carolina State Climatologist since 2003 and Supervisor for the South Carolina Flood Mitigation Program since 2014. The South Carolina Flood Mitigation Program is South Carolina's coordinating agency for the National Flood Insurance Program.

Hope's responsibilities as State Climatologist include providing climatic information and meteorological interpretations, certifying climate records, overseeing the State's Drought Response Program, providing emergency weather support; and conducting applied research to improve decision making activities.

Dr. Mizzell has authored or co-authored studies on topics ranging from extreme rainfall, flooding, drought, and climate trends and variability. She began her career in 1992 as a Climatologist for the Southeast Regional Climate Center before advancing to Assistant State Climatologist for the S.C. State Climate Office in 1995. She is the Past President of the American Association of State Climatologists.

She received her Ph.D. focused on Climatology from the Department of Geography at the University of South Carolina in 2008.

Brian Lynch
Santee Cooper



Brian Lynch serves as the Senior Director of Environmental Services for Santee Cooper, bringing more than 30 years of progressive experience in environmental management, water systems operations, regulatory compliance, and strategic planning. In this role, Brian oversees compliance with all federal, state, and local environmental requirements across Santee Cooper's operations. He directs environmental permitting for air, water, and waste programs; leads FERC hydro license administration; and manages threatened and endangered species programs, the central laboratory, lakes management, and vector control operations.

Brian's previous experience includes managing the Santee Cooper Water Systems—collectively permitted to treat 58 MGD—and overseeing water quality, aquatic vegetation, and fisheries management for the 170,000-acre Santee Cooper Lakes system. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and a Master of Business Administration, both from Charleston Southern University.

Ashley Graham
SCDES



Ashley Graham is the Field Coordinator for the Aquatic Nuisance Plants (ANP) Program at SCDES. The ANP Program manages invasive aquatic plants on publicly accessible waters across the State. The Program currently oversees more than 70 project locations including vital economic and recreational resources such as the ACE Basin rivers, Cooper River, and many Piedmont reservoirs. Ashley joined the program in 2024. She holds a Master of Science degree in Biology from Winthrop University.

Dr. Matthew Baumann
SCDES



Dr. Matthew Baumann joined the Bureau of Water in 2017 as a water quality modeler in the Division of Water Quality. Since 2024, Matt has served as Director of the Aquatic Science Division in the Bureau of Water. The Division oversees the statewide Ambient Water Quality Monitoring Program, Aquatic Nuisance Plant Program, and Harmful Algal Bloom Program, among others.

Prior to joining the agency, Matt was an environmental science consultant in Cambridge, MA, working on natural resource damage assessment projects including the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

He received a Ph.D. in Oceanography from the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography.

Lindsay Privette
Pee Dee Regional
Council of Governments



Lindsay Privette manages the Planning and Economic Development Department for the Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments. The department provides technical assistance, grant administration, and local government and planning services to cities and counties in the Pee Dee region of South Carolina.

Privette also oversees the compilation and implementation of the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies, a five-year plan that promotes the collaborative, holistic growth of people, communities, governments, and industries in Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion, and Marlboro Counties.

She is a graduate of Francis Marion University and lives in rural Darlington County with her husband and their two children.

Emily Bores
SCDES



Emily Bores joined DHEC in 2017 and has served as SCDES's Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Program Coordinator since 2018. The HAB Program is responsible for monitoring cyanotoxins at more than 100 locations throughout the State including near drinking water intakes in lakes susceptible to HABs. The program is a critical tool in communicating recreational guidance to South Carolina residents and visitors.

Emily graduated in 2016 from Coastal Carolina University with her Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Science. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Biological Sciences at the University of South Carolina.

Jestine Deepe
Mount Pleasant Waterworks



Jestine Deepe is the Director of Regulatory and Environmental Services at Mount Pleasant Waterworks and President of the Water Reuse Section for South Carolina. As a native South Carolinian, her dedication to the state's water is lifelong — rooted in years spent on the water, from Upstate mountain streams to the coast and the waters surrounding her home on James Island.

With 17 years of experience in laboratory operations, community health, environmental protection, and regulatory compliance, Jestine has built her career on the technical side of water quality. She is passionate about advancing water

reuse and educating the community on the vital role it plays in South Carolina's future.

She holds a B.S. in Biology and an M.S. in Environmental Studies from the College of Charleston, along with an A License in Biological Wastewater Treatment and a B License in Water Treatment.

Brett Butz
SCDES



Brett Butz is a licensed attorney, Water Treatment, Distribution, and Wastewater Operator, as well as a licensed attorney, founder of Innovative Infrastructure Advising, and currently serves as the AI Strategist for SCDES

He is leading the implementation of an innovative agency-wide framework for AI use case review, approval, procurement, and deployment as SCDES modernizes how government delivers environmental services. His work also integrates frontline utility experience, legal and regulatory expertise, and the use of next-generation AI to solve complex public infrastructure and staffing challenges.

Courtney Kemmer
SCDES



Courtney Kemmer is the Aquatic Resource Monitoring Section Manager at the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services. She holds a B.S. in Geological Sciences from the University of South Carolina and has a professional background in groundwater modeling and hydrology. Courtney's current work focuses on data analytics, environmental monitoring, and using data-driven approaches to support aquatic resource management.

Kyle Cotten
INFRA



Kyle Cotten is a leading infrastructure strategist, effectively connecting corporate water stewardship efforts to public resource management. As a Principal at INFRA science & engineering, he collaborates with state agencies and Fortune 500 companies to improve watershed health and recognize water resource systems as essential capital assets. Through his work at INFRA, he assists states in recognizing their surface and groundwater resources as economic drivers, ensuring economic prosperity through proactive public stewardship. This often leads to public-private partnerships in developing commercial and industrial areas, promoting active engagement between resource users and local communities to safeguard water resources for future generations.

Dr. Alicia Arrigoni
Google



Alicia joined Google in 2026 as the team lead for their global water and cooling, policy, advocacy, and market development program. She spearheads cross-sectoral engagements to build partnerships and collaborative programs that promote sustainable water use and long-term watershed health. Prior to joining Google, Alicia spent close to two decades as the leading US intelligence expert on global water security. Her work included developing a holistic approach to assess water risks affecting communities, economies, the environment, and

geopolitics. Over the course of her career, Alicia's expertise at assessing complex and multifaceted water risks, building diverse partnerships, and holistic solutions has been presented to, and used by numerous world leaders to shape water security decisions and policy, including three US presidents, and senior leaders in African, Asian, European, and Middle Eastern countries.

Michele Eddy
Watershed Management and Nature-Based Solutions



Michele Eddy is Director of Watershed Management and Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) at RTI International where she has supported cross-sector clients for more than 20 years. Her work focuses on the development, analysis, and application of spatially based watershed models to inform watershed management, ecological and climatological assessments, and investigation of policy initiatives. She leads the research and development of RTI's Watershed Flow and ALlocation modeling platform (WaterFALL®), a framework used to quantify the benefits of NBS and broader watershed management strategies under changing climate and land-use conditions. At RTI, Ms. Eddy works across disciplines, collaborating with economists, natural resources scientists, statisticians, and application developers. She has also led the development of the NBS Explorer and other data visualization tools that provide clients and the public with access to data generated from WaterFALL-based projects, supporting transparent, science-based decision-making.

Maurie Lawrence
Milliken & Company



Maurie Lawrence currently serves as VP Sustainability, Associate General Counsel of Milliken & Company, headquartered in Spartanburg, S.C. Prior to joining Milliken, Ms. Lawrence assisted clients with regulatory and transactional matters in private practice as a shareholder with Wyche, P.A. Her responsibilities increased at Wyche to include service as Chairperson. She also worked as General Counsel for Hughes Development Corp.

Ms. Lawrence received her undergraduate degree from Smith College with high honors, a graduate degree in Urban Policy from Glasgow University and her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center. She recently completed Sustainable Capitalism and ESG Online from Berkeley Law Executive Education. She recently served on the boards, including serving as chairperson, of Piedmont Health Foundation, Clement’s Kindness, and the Greenville Housing Fund.

She has been recognized for achievements by Chambers USA, Best & Brightest Under 35 by Greenville Magazine, South Carolina Super Lawyers, South Carolina Lawyers Weekly, YWCA, CREW Upstate and Who’s Who in the Upstate of South Carolina. Ms. Lawrence is a member of the Liberty Fellowship Class of 2025.

Kristy Ellenberg
SCDES



Kristy Ellenberg is the Director of Collaborative Partnerships & Strategic Initiatives for SCDES. In this role, she strengthens connections with government

industry, non-profit, professional and academic partners by convening collaborative stakeholder workgroups, guiding community engagement and coordinating economic development related permitting processes. She’s served as facilitator for WaterSC in 2025-2026.

Prior to her work with SCDES, Kristy provided environmental conflict management and designed and facilitated processes addressing environmental issues in over 20 coastal states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Portugal in consultation the NOAA Coastal Services Center.

Lisa Brownlee
Leader’s Imago, LLC



Lisa Brownlee is the Founder and President of Leader’s Imago, LLC, a leadership and organizational development consulting firm dedicated to helping organizations improve performance through meaningful behavioral change.

A Master Black Belt in Lean Six Sigma, Lisa holds both a BS and MS in Chemical Engineering from the University of South Carolina. She is certified in multiple personality and behavioral assessments, including Everything DiSC®, the WorkPlace Big Five, and is an Authorized Partner of Everything DiSC and The Five Behaviors® (Wiley). Since founding Leader’s Imago in 2013, Lisa has partnered with organizations nationwide to strengthen leadership effectiveness, build high-performing teams, and improve business outcomes. She is known for her practical, engaging approach —equipping leaders with clear, actionable strategies while helping teams navigate conflict and lead change with confidence.