

# BEST PRACTICES INTERSTATE SUMMIT

## SPEAKER BIOS

### CEIL STRAUSS, CFM

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Ceil Strauss, CFM, is the Minnesota State Floodplain Manager. Ceil has been in the Floodplain Program at Minnesota DNR since 2002, and worked with the Minnesota DNR an additional 14 years, mainly as an Area (or Field) Hydrologist in the western Twin Cities area. She is the immediate past Chair of the national Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM).

She has a BA in Biology from Lawrence University (Wisconsin) and an MS in Water Resources Management from the University of Michigan.

## CONTACT

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## KRISTEN HILFERTY

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Kristen Hilferty is a senior research fellow at the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy. Kristen is a New Orleans native, who attended Louisiana State University and received Bachelor of Arts degrees in Political Science and History, as well as a minor in Business Administration. During her time at LSU, Kristen interned for then-U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu. Following graduation, she returned to New Orleans to attend Tulane University Law School, where she received her J.D. and certification in Civil Law. At Tulane, Kristen was a research intern at the Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy, a member of the Tulane Environmental Law

Journal, and a student attorney in the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic. After graduating from Tulane in 2017, she clerked for the Honorable Marc T. Amy of the Louisiana Third Circuit Court of Appeal before returning to the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy.

### CONTACT

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## JAMIE HUFFMAN

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Jamie Huffman is a Senior Research Fellow at the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy. Jamie is from the Raleigh, North Carolina area. She received her B.A. with Distinction in Global Studies and Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In May 2018, Jamie received her J.D. from William & Mary Law School in Williamsburg, Virginia. She was also a graduate fellow at the Virginia Coastal Policy Center at William & Mary for all three years of law school, working on a number of different environmental issues that impacted Tidewater Virginia. Jamie has been published in the

William & Mary Environmental Law & Policy Review, and has also written a white paper for the VCPC.

### CONTACT

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## ATAUL HANNAN, P.E., CFM

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Ataul Hannan is working as Planning Division Director for the Harris County Flood Control District. The Planning Division devises the plans that guide the District CIP and identifies the projects that the District designs and constructs. In addition to identifying projects, the Planning Division also provides critical support for new projects and other District responsibilities by managing right-a-way acquisition, Buyout Program, environmental regulatory support, storm water quality, and coordination with FEMA. HCFCFCD's Model and Map Management Program was developed under Mr. Hannan's leadership. Mr. Hannan has over twenty years of experience in watershed management and water resources engineering. Prior to joining the District he provided technical support to FEMA's NFIP and Disaster Relief Program. He was the lead project engineer for Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project (Harris

County) and North Carolina state wide mapping project. He managed numerous Flood Insurance Studies in many states. Mr. Hannan is the author of more than 75 papers and abstracts on variety of topics. Mr. Hannan has extensive experience in modeling as well as advanced 1D/2D software. He is registered as a Professional Engineer in the State of Texas and Virginia. He is also a Certified Flood Plain Manager.

### CONTACT

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## EHAB MESELHE, PH.D., P.E.

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Ehab Meselhe, Ph.D., P.E., is Professor in the Department of River-Coastal Science and Engineering at Tulane University. Dr. Meselhe has more than 25 years of experience researching coastal wetland hydrology, sediment transport, and computer modeling of coastal wetland, estuarine, and riverine systems. He has extensive experience working with academic institutions, government agencies, and the private sector. Dr. Meselhe is a registered Professional Engineer in the states of Iowa and Louisiana. He also served as an Associate Editor of the Journal of Hydrology (Elsevier), and the Journal of Hydraulic Research (International Association of Hydraulic Research).

### CONTACT

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## KEVIN HOUCK, P.E., CFM

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Kevin Houck, PE, CFM, serves as Section Chief for the Watershed and Flood Protection Section of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, where he has worked since 2003. His duties include assistance with flood mapping studies, engineering project management, grants management, general technical assistance, and public outreach regarding the flood hazards in the state. Recent programs have included the Emergency Watershed Protection program in partnership with the NRCS and the Colorado Hazard Mapping Program, both in response to the 2013 floods. Prior to his role at the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Kevin served as a consulting engineer for eight years in the Denver area. Kevin has a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Washington State University and a master's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Colorado – Denver. He is registered as a professional engineer in the states of Colorado, California, and Louisiana. He is a Past Chair for the

Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers (CASFM) and has served as Treasurer for the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM).

### CONTACT

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## TIM KATERS, AICP

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Tim Katers, AICP has worked as a grant specialist in compliance or a program manager for disaster recovery programs since November 2014. He manages the Resilience Planning program of \$16,000,000 which is nearing completion and in January 2019 added additional job duties managing the \$32,000,000 Watershed Resilience Pilot program. Prior to work in disaster recovery, Tim was a planner and community development director for 26 years across much of Colorado.

### CONTACT

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## MONIQUE BOULET

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Monique Boulet serves as the Chief Administrative Officer for the Acadiana Planning Commission, APC. In 2015, Boulet was instrumental in the creation of the APC. Working through numerous legal and political hurdles, she led the effort to regionalize transportation planning in the Lafayette urbanized area with the formation of the Acadiana Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Following the Louisiana Flood events of 2016, under Boulet's leadership Acadiana became a federal and state "Best Practice" example for regional watershed planning and implementation. In 2017, Acadiana received the first regional mitigation award of \$25 million focused on flooding. This work was recognized in the Forth National Climate Assessment (NCA4) presented to the President and mandated by Congress. In addition, Boulet is working with local, state and national organizations to coordinate the role of local revitalization initiatives with Opportunity Zone investments. She is known for her ability to solve diverse problems with public and private collaboration crossing political

and economic boundaries. In 2016, Boulet was selected by the National Organizations of Development Organizations to participate in the US Economic Development Administration Emerging Leaders Program.

Prior to working in regional government, Boulet worked in the private sector in a start-up oil field service company and specialized in strategic business planning. Boulet received her Executive Master of Business Administration from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She was born and raised in Acadiana, is married to David Boulet and is the mother of 4 children, Kathleen, David, Zachary and Samuel.

### CONTACT

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