

Bios and Resume Excerpts
for
Presenters at October 28, 2013 Workshop:
Local Government Challenges in Dealing with Rising Seas

Charles Hopkinson is Director of the Georgia Sea Grant College Program and Professor of Marine Sciences at UGA. His research expertise is on ecosystem biogeochemistry and his current research addresses the effects of land use change, especially suburbanization, on water use, nitrogen cycling and eutrophication in watersheds and estuaries. His research also examines the interaction of sea level rise, climate change, and land use change on coastal wetlands, on estuarine productivity and foodweb structure and on carbon budgets of estuarine and shelf systems. As Sea Grant Director, Hopkinson works with Sea Grant and Marine Extension groups to engage university scientists in finding solutions to critical issues in the Georgia coastal zone. Efforts currently range from increasing hazard resilience of coastal communities, to developing coastal resources, to helping to guide economic development while minimizing the loss of ecosystem services. Hopkinson is editor-in-chief of the journal *Wetlands Ecology and Management*. He has published over 100 peer-reviewed research articles.

Sam Riley Medlock, JD, CFM, is Policy & Partnerships Program Manager for the Association of State Floodplain Managers, serving dual roles for the Association and the ASFPM Foundation to provide leadership in national flood policy initiatives and foster partnerships with allied agencies, organizations, and academia in service to our members and mission. Sam has more than eighteen years of experience in land use law, hazard mitigation, and environmental policy working with stakeholders, regulators, and utilities, as Supervisor of Floodplain Programs for the Lower Colorado River Authority; Director of Planning for Flower Mound, Texas; Environmental Planner with the North Central Texas Council of Governments; and with disaster recovery teams in Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua following Hurricane Mitch. While working with the NCTCOG and LCRA, both FEMA Cooperating Technical Partners, Sam was directly involved in federal flood studies and NFIP mapping activities in rapidly urbanizing areas. Prior to joining ASFPM staff, Sam led numerous initiatives to promote safer development standards and mitigate flood risk, including co-authoring the first law journal article to tackle NAI legal issues, *Mitigating Misery: Land Use and Protection of Property Rights Before the Next Big Flood*. In 2010, Sam received the Army Commander's Award for Public Service in recognition of her service as member of the National Committee on Levee Safety, working to address levee challenges in an integrated risk management approach. Sam is a Juris Doctor graduate of Vermont Law School, has a Bachelor of Science in Government summa cum laude from Texas Woman's University, and has been a Certified Floodplain Manager since 2001.

Sue Hopfensperger has been with Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) as an ISO/CRS Specialist since March of 2006. Prior to that, she has worked as a training specialist, industry research expert, and recruiter and has helped develop training programs and provided consulting services in personnel administration. In 1982, Ms. Hopfensperger graduated from Miami University in Oxford Ohio with a Bachelor's Degree in International Studies. This included attending an overseas study program in Luxembourg. With a teaching fellowship, she graduated from Indiana University in Bloomington Indiana with a Master's Degree in Public Administration in 1986. Her studies included an internship with the Department of Justice, publishing a White Paper for the President, and additional studies overseas in France. Ms. Hopfensperger began a 13-year career in personnel services providing recruiting, training, resume writing and other corporate human resource related documentation for companies around the world and became a Certified Personnel Consultant (CPC) in 1992. Looking for a career change, Ms. Hopfensperger was hired by Palm Beach County as the County Flood Zone Technician. Her responsibilities included working with the FEMA/NFIP County Community Rating System (CRS) Coordinator to maintain and provide documentation for participation in the FEMA/NFIP/CRS and revise the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Ms. Hopfensperger is a certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) as certified by the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), and a member of both the Georgia and Florida Floodplain Managers Associations. She works in Florida with 44 Counties and approximately 72 NFIP/CRS communities across north and northeast Florida and coastal areas of Georgia.

Jason Evans, PhD. is an interdisciplinary systems ecologist who holds a public service faculty appointment in environmental policy and sustainability analysis at the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government. Through this position, Dr. Evans conducts a diverse array of applied environmental research and policy assessments in service of local and state governments throughout Georgia and the SE region. Several of his current projects provide geospatial decision support for local governments in coastal Georgia that are seeking to incorporate sea level rise adaptation, social vulnerability assessments, and other resilience concepts into their planning processes. Partners in this work include NOAA, Georgia Sea Grant, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the City of Tybee Island, the City of St. Marys, the Chatham-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission, Georgia Coastal Regional Commission, Georgia Emergency Management Agency, and the United States Geological Survey. Dr. Evans holds a B.A. in philosophy from New College of Florida (1998), a M.S. in interdisciplinary ecology from the University of Florida (2001), and a PhD in interdisciplinary ecology, with an area of concentration in environmental engineering sciences, from the University of Florida (2007).

Roger Weaver, as Planning Director for the City of St. Marys, performs the following duties. Also listed are some on the projects he works on.

- Flood Plain Manager for the City of St. Marys
- Planning duties to include zoning, rezoning, annexation, variances, site development review, appeals, etc.
- Staff representative for Tree Board
- Staff representative to Cemetery Authority

- Staff representative to the Historic Preservation Commission
- In house Project manager for exterior of repair of exterior of City Hall
- Chair of the technical advisory committee for the Joint Land Use Study in conjunction with the US Navy Kings Bay submarine base
- Project manager for acquisition and administration of three grants – a \$300,000 from GaDOT for Transportation Enhancement of a public waterfront walk; a \$50,000 Coastal Incentive Grant for repair of the existing gateway dock for public use; a \$160,000 grant from NOAA via Georgia Sea Grant for study and recommendations related to sea level rise and how it will affect the historic district and other structures within the Flood Zones
- In-house Project manager for signature roof over existing amphitheater in the Gilman Park on the waterfront
- Perfect attendance as a member of the three year Coastal Regional Water Planning Council
- A qualified NIMS disaster response team
- Author of proposed Maritime Heritage District Overlay for the City
- Writer of many new ordinances or updates to existing ordinances
- Member of the Coastal Georgia Regional Hazard mitigation technical advisory committee
- In-house Project manager for historic restoration of the exterior of the circa 1826 Orange Hall mansion (see photo above)

John Fergus has a BS in Engineering Physics and an MS and PhD in Geological Sciences from Lehigh University. He is a retired U.S. Air Force officer whose career centered on operation of a global network of geophysical sensors monitoring foreign nuclear explosions. For several years, he worked in the field for an environmental consultant. He has spent 20 years as a volunteer and consultant focused on improving service delivery by his hometown, Satellite Beach, Florida and moving the 98% built-out oceanfront City towards a sustainable future. He has served on multiple ad hoc City committees including a Rightsizing Committee, a Capital Improvements Committee, and a Blue Ribbon Budget Panel. He also has served on the City's Comprehensive Planning Advisory Board (the City's local planning authority) and the City's Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee. Since 2009 he has applied his technical background to two emergent sustainability issues: 1) a state-mandated collaborative effort among local stakeholders to implement meaningful efforts to mitigate anthropogenic factors driving the Indian River Lagoon from a macrophytic to a microphytic ecology and 2) addressing means by which the low-lying City, spanning a barrier island, can best prepare for and recover from coastal hazards such as storm surge and coastal erosion.

Rick Carper has been Public Works Director and City Engineer for the City of Atlantic Beach for nine years. A 1976 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, he qualified as a Surface Warfare Officer and served in the Navy Nuclear Power Program. He came to Florida in 1994 as Commanding Officer of the USS Oliver Hazard Perry (FFG 7), followed by a tour as the first Regional Maintenance Coordinator at Readiness Support Group Mayport (now the Southeast Regional Maintenance Center). After retirement, he was employed as a Civil Engineer for Connelly & Wicker, a small engineering firm in Jacksonville Beach. As an

Engineer Intern, Rick worked primarily on roadway and drainage projects including the Wonderwood Connector. After becoming a licensed Professional Engineer in 2004, Rick took the position in Atlantic Beach. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from the Naval Academy and a Master's Degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, both in Mechanical Engineering.

Margo Moehring joined Northeast Florida Regional Council staff as Director of Policy in January 2008. In this capacity, she has led Council efforts to establish a 50-year vision for growth and development in the First Coast. She is also Executive Director of the non-profit Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida (RCI), which undertakes policy work for the Regional Council. Their most recent policy work was on sea level rise. Prior to joining the Regional Council and RCI, she was appointed Chief of the Strategic Planning Division of the City of Jacksonville, Planning and Development Department. Margo was born and raised in the Bronx. Before moving to Florida in 2000, she was Executive Director of Strategic Planning with the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services, Division of Real Estate Services. Margo graduated from Jacksonville University and has a Master of Philosophy Degree in Town Planning from University College, London. Margo is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and the Royal Town Planning Institute.

Lupita McClenning is Director of Planning & Government Services for Coastal Regional Commission (CRC) located in Brunswick, GA. Ms. McClenning demonstrates strong skills in strategic planning, project management and is well-versed in land planning principles as well as resources for strategies, tools, and civic participation. She is proficient in analyzing socio-economic, demographic, and service-related data in support of plan development. As Director of Planning and Government Services, Lupita plays the key-role in encouraging local government participation related to implementing the Regional Plan with the ultimate aim of helping local governments achieve broader social impacts. The CRC serves 10 counties and 35 cities. The Regional Plan of Coastal Georgia is the first in the State and the first to implement the Evaluation and Monitoring Element of the Plans' prescribed performance standards. The aim is to measure how the region is performing according to the issues and opportunities, vision and strategies identified by stakeholders. She leads planning efforts to include Resilient Communities as a topic of importance with the aim of integrating hazard mitigation planning into the Regional Plan. As a Certified Charrette planner Lupita has skills to engage stakeholders and facilitate public participation.

Patrick McCormack, Esq., has served as County Attorney for St. Johns County, Florida, since 2006. Previously, Mr. McCormack was the Deputy County Attorney for Flagler County, Florida, and had served as an Assistant County Attorney in St. Johns County. In the private sector, Mr. McCormack practiced land use law and conducted general litigation. Mr. McCormack is Board Certified in City, County, and Local Government Law.

Thomas Ruppert works with the Florida Sea Grant College Program as a statewide specialist in coastal planning. Mr. Ruppert is a licensed Florida attorney whose work with Florida Sea Grant focuses on legal aspects of adaptive planning for sea-level rise, hazard mitigation, post-disaster recovery planning, environmental protection, and associated long-

term challenges and opportunities of Florida's coastal communities. In this role, Mr. Ruppert provides assistance to the network of county-based extension agents and directly to local governments. Mr. Ruppert's areas of expertise include federal and state property rights law, beach, and coastal policy in Florida, Florida's coastal construction control line permitting, comprehensive planning law, sea turtle habitat protection, and coastal and marine permitting programs.

Scott Pippin is an environmental attorney and planner with both the University of Georgia's River Basin Center and the Carl Vinson Institute of Government where he examines local government planning issues related to sea level rise along Georgia's coast. He also works on a variety of water quality issues around the state, currently focusing on wastewater planning for onsite disposal systems in the Georgia coastal region. Mr. Pippin has also worked in the private sector as a local government attorney and environmental consultant. He was born and raised in Dougherty County, Georgia and holds a B.A. from Washington and Lee University received in 2001. He received his J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law in 2006 and a Masters of Environmental Planning and Design degree from the University of Georgia College of Environment and Design in 2013.