



Brewster Pond Summit 2023

Septic Systems and Ponds in Brewster What do we know, what is being done, what is planned

AGENDA

- 9:00 - 9:05 AM** **Opening Remarks**
Susan Bridges, President, Brewster Ponds Coalition
Peter Lombardi, Town Manager, Town of Brewster
- 9:05 - 9:10 AM** **Moderator Remarks**
Tom Vautin
- 9:10 - 9:30 AM** **I: Introduction**
- Review of ponds, sources and types of pollutants, need for good science – *John Keith, Vice President, Brewster Ponds Coalition*
 - Actions taken or planned by Town regarding pollution sources other than septic systems – stormwater management regulations, identification of stormwater discharge points, stormwater management projects, Town fertilizer regulations – *Griffin Ryder, Director, Department of Public Works, Town of Brewster*
- 9:30 - 10:00 AM** **II: Scientific Research Planned or In Progress**
- BPC septic system impact/enhanced pond testing study – *John Keith, Vice President, Brewster Ponds Coalition*
 - What has been and is being done to understand the water quality and impairment of ponds, the Mill Pond study, PALs sampling, review of all PALs and other testing data. Brief review of pond quality levels as known now – *Chris Miller, Director of the Natural Resources Department, Town of Brewster*
 - Cape Wide “Freshwater Initiative” Study – *Erin Perry, Deputy Director, Cape Cod Commission*
- 10:00 - 10:15 AM** **Question & Answer Period for Sessions I and II**
- 10:15 - 10:25 AM** **Break**
- 10:25 - 10:40 AM** **III: Title 5 Regulations**

- What the DEP proposed, responses from the Town of Brewster and the BPC. Details on what they cover and do not cover (i.e., estuaries, not fresh water) and current status with updates on DEP review and decision status.) – *Mark Nelson, Principal and Senior Hydrogeologist, Horsley Witten Group, LLC*

10:40 - 10:50 AM IV: Regulatory Management Entities (RME's) for Alternative Septic Systems

- Review of the County pilot RME for management of A/I septic systems – what it is, why it is needed (i.e., enables public funding) and what it can do to increase options to protect ponds, with a mention of the status of DEP approval for phosphorus-removing A/I septic systems – *Brian Baumgaertel, Director, MASSTC*

10:50 - 11:00 V: State and Local Funding Sources

- Work done to identify and secure public funding sources for work that may be needed to protect ponds and water resources, and current status – notably related to the State Revolving Fund (SRF) and Cape & Islands Fund – *Peter Lombardi, Town Manager, Town of Brewster*

11:00 - 11:10 Question and Answer Period for Sessions III, IV and V

11:10 - 11:25 AM VI: What about PFAs and Other Toxics?

- Brief review of what is known about emerging contaminants – types, sources (notably from septic systems), levels in ponds and Brewster drinking water (as best known), health impacts, control methods and challenges. Includes such pollutants as PFAs, pharmaceuticals, endocrine disruptors, and pesticides. – *Kimberley Pearson, Chairman, Brewster Natural Resources Advisory Commission and Vice Chair, Brewster Board of Health*

11:25 - 11:40 AM Open Question and Answer Session

11:40 - 11:45 AM Thank You and Adjournment
Susan Bridges, President, Brewster Ponds Coalition



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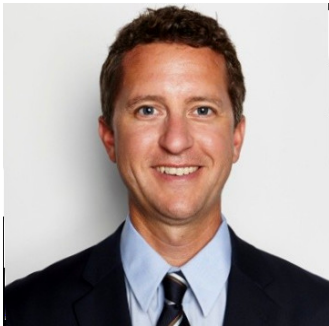
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SPEAKER BIOS



Susan Bridges – President, Brewster Ponds Coalition

Susan Bridges has been coming to the Cape since the early 70s and retired to Brewster in 2016 after a 30+ year career with MetLife. Susan joined the Brewster Ponds Coalition in 2018 and has been actively involved in many aspects of the organization. Past volunteer activities in New Jersey included being on the Advisory Council for the Great Swamp Watershed Association where she was involved in water quality testing and fundraising.



Peter Lombardi – Town Manager, Town of Brewster

Peter Lombardi has served as Brewster's Town Manager since 2019. Prior to serving in Brewster, Peter was the Town Administrator of Wenham, Massachusetts. He had previously served as the City of Newburyport's Director of Policy and Administration and as the Grants Administrator for Winthrop, Massachusetts. While attaining his masters degree, Peter interned at the state house for his then-State Representative. Prior to his career in public service, Peter worked in the marine industry.

Peter holds a master of public administration from Suffolk University where he received the "Outstanding MPA Student" award. He is a member of Phi Alpha Alpha, the national honor society for public affairs and administration, serving as the Suffolk University chapter president for several years. He has a bachelor of arts in political science and history from the University of Vermont. Peter is a member of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and the Massachusetts Municipal Managers Association (MMMA). He is committed to supporting the next generation of local government leaders, chairing the MMMA's Future Managers Committee and serving in a variety of mentoring roles at Suffolk University.



John Keith – Vice President, Brewster Ponds Coalition

John Keith is a semi-retired environmental engineer, currently consulting on projects related to toxic contamination and air pollution in developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. His long career included positions leading the air and water pollution programs of the New Jersey DEP and the environment, health and safety programs for a major pharmaceutical company. John was Mayor of Fair Lawn, NJ and on its city council for 8 years in the 1990's. In that role, he spearheaded the renovation of the city's infrastructure, including the sewer and the water systems. He holds a degree in Civil Engineering from the

University of Michigan, a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering from the NJ Institute of Technology, and is a graduate of the Harvard Business School Executive Leadership Program.

John was a founding member of the Brewster Ponds Coalition in 2014 and is currently Vice-President of the Coalition. He has a strong desire to help address long-term water quality concerns on Cape Cod, particularly regarding nutrients that promote toxic algae blooms, as well as toxic chemicals and invasive species in our ponds. He and his wife, Cari, have lived full time in Brewster since 2019 but bought their house as a second home in 1997. He has been coming to Cape Cod his entire life as his family roots are in Brewster; his father grew up in Brewster and now that he lives here, John is a sixth generation Brewster resident.



Griffin Ryder – Director, Department of Public Works, Town of Brewster

Griffin Ryder grew up in Brewster and joined the Town as the Department of Public Works Director in June of 2021 after serving for two years as the Town Engineer in Harwich. Griffin is a Professional (Civil) Engineer with 20+ years of experience. Griffin spent the first 20 years of his career working as a Site/Civil Engineer in the private sector designing and overseeing the construction of complex mixed-use private developments with complimentary stormwater management systems designed in accordance with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Stormwater Handbook.

Griffin served as the lead instructor for a series of Hydrology & Hydraulics classes at VHB, teaching entry level engineers how to design and model stormwater management systems. Griffin is responsible for the management of the Town of Brewster Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit with the United States Environmental Protection Agency.



Chris Miller – Director of the Natural Resources Department, Town of Brewster

In 2007, Chris Miller joined the Town of Brewster as the Director of the Natural Resources Department. The Department manages the Town open space and conservation land, as well as shellfish population and water quality monitoring. Chris has a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Management, a Master's degree in Chemical Engineering, and graduate certificates in Hazardous Waste Control and in Local Government.



Erin Perry – Deputy Director, Cape Cod Commission

Erin Perry joined the Cape Cod Commission staff in 2011 and has served as Deputy Director since 2019. Erin manages regional planning efforts at the program level and engages communities during the planning process to build consensus. She has led development of plans and decision-support platforms on the topics of water quality, coastal resilience and hazard mitigation, climate change, economic development, and the Cape Cod Regional Policy Plan. Erin received a Bachelor of Science in Biological Oceanography from Rutgers University and a Master of Arts in Marine Affairs from the University of Rhode Island.



Mark Nelson – Principal and Senior Hydrogeologist, Horsley Witten Group, LLC

Mark Nelson is a Principal and Senior Hydrogeologist with over 30 years of experience in water resource planning focusing on wastewater management and its impacts to drinking water, freshwater ponds and coastal estuaries. He has been working for the Town of Brewster since 2011 on the development and implementation of the Town's Integrated Water Resource Management Plan, including plans to protect and restore Brewster's freshwater ponds.



Brian Baumgaertel – Director, Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Test Center (MASSTC)

Brian Baumgaertel is a Senior Environmental Specialist at the Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment. He is a Registered Sanitarian, Environmental Health Specialist, Title 5 Soil Evaluator and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator. Originally from Upstate New York, Brian has lived on Cape Cod for 15 years and currently resides in Mashpee, where he serves as Chair of the local Board of Health.



Kimberley Pearson – Chairman, Brewster Natural Resources Advisory Commission and Vice Chair, Brewster Board of Health

Kim Pearson is a physician specializing in occupational and environmental toxicology and a consultant in environmental science and policy. She has served as a consultant to the Massachusetts Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment on topics such as cancer clusters and other environmental health concerns. She holds a bachelor's degree in geology from Wellesley College and a master's degree in geochemistry from UCLA.

Dr. Pearson received her residency training at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and completed fellowships in Occupational and Environmental Medicine and Toxicology in addition to an MPH at the Harvard School of Public Health. During a parenting hiatus, she taught science and mathematics in the Washington D.C. public schools and served on the board of several educational and environmental non-profit organizations while completing a master's degree in Environmental Science and Policy at Johns Hopkins University. Her research interests include the development of evidence-based conservation strategies and the implementation of citizen science in the approach to climate change and biodiversity conservation. Kim is currently a consultant in conservation science and policy based in Brewster.