Gulf Environmental Protection and Stewardship Board

Committee

Charles A. Wilson

Chair

Dr. Wilson is currently Chief Science Officer of the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI), and Emeritus Professor in the Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences, and Executive Director Emeritus Louisiana Sea Grant Louisiana State University (LSU). During his twenty-seven-year tenure at LSU, Dr. Wilson served as Chair of the Department of Oceanography, Vice Provost in LSU's Office of Academic Affairs, and Executive Director of Louisiana Sea Grant. His diverse and rigorous research program on the biota of the northern Gulf of Mexico resulted in numerous publications and scores of technical reports focused primarily on marine fish life history and the impact of oil and gas development on fish populations. For the past 10 years he has been employed by the Gulf of Mexico Alliance where he serves as Chief Science Officer for GoMRI, a 10-year, $500,000,000 program funded by BP to study the impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on the marine environment. In 2012 Dr. Wilson founded Navy Cove Oysters LLC, a for profit oyster research farm. The farm operates near the mouth of Mobile Bay Alabama on the Fort Morgan peninsula.

Holly Greening

Member

Holly Greening earned a M.S. from Florida State University following extensive estuarine food web studies. Her professional career has focused on managing watershed and estuarine projects and programs. As Senior Scientist (1990-2007) and then Executive Director (2008-2018) of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP), Holly was responsible for maintaining the strong partnerships forged through TBEP, continuing the bay's science-based restoration and recovery strategies. Holly has served on the Estuarine Research Federation Governing Board, the National Academy of Sciences Ocean Studies Board, and five National Research Council committees. She was Co-Chair of the 2011 Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation Conference, Chair of the Association of National Estuary Programs, and is currently serving as Associate Editor for the scientific journal Estuaries and Coasts. She has authored more than 30 peer-reviewed publications with a focus on estuarine ecology and collaborative watershed management and is the recipient of regional and national awards for coastal stewardship. Holly recently chaired a panel on long-term trends in the Gulf of Mexico for the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine's Gulf Research Program. After retiring from the Tampa Bay Estuary Program in 2018, Holly co-founded CoastWise Partners with Rich Batiuk (retired from EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program) to offer pro-bono assistance to coastal and watershed programs worldwide. With more than 70 years of combined experience, CoastWise Partners offer help with goal-setting, organizational assessment, establishing criteria, technical advice, monitoring design, workshop planning and peer review.

Clinton G. Johnson

Member

After joining Esri as a Solution Architect in 2016 and finding a lack of focus on customer efforts to address inequities, Mr. Clinton Johnson became Esri's first Racial Equity & Social Justice Lead. Clinton left his position as the City of Philadelphia's Deputy CIO, Chief Enterprise Architect, to join Esri, marking a break in a public service career. Clinton has spent years learning, creating, and exercising positive practices for racial justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, belonging, access, and GIS (geographic information systems). He leads the NorthStar of GIS, a nonprofit Clinton co-founded, which advocates for equitable Black representation at all levels in geography-related fields and a geography community of practice that advances equity at intersections of all systems of oppression. Clinton serves as a Vice-Chair on the URISA Pro-Equity Anti-Racism (PEAR) Committee. The American Geographical Society (AGS) Council recently elected him to its illustrious council to serve beginning in 2023. Clinton is also the inaugural winner of the WGIC (World Geospatial Industry Council) DEI Individual Champion Trailblazer Award. Clinton holds a Diversity and Inclusion Certificate (Cornell University), a TOGAF Enterprise Architecture Certification, and a Bachelor in Information Technology (American InterContinental University). He also has training in Board Leadership & Governance (University of Pennsylvania).

Samantha Joye

Member

Dr. Samantha Joye is an oceanographer, an educator, and an environmental advocate. Joye is a Regents' Professor and the Athletic Association Professor in Arts and Sciences at the University of Georgia. She is an expert in microbiology and biogeochemistry and works in extreme deep ocean environments, as well as in blue-water environments. Her work bridges the fields of analytical chemistry, microbiology, and geology and many projects focus on extreme environments, including seafloor cold seeps and hydrothermal vents, Antarctic ice-covered lakes, and pelagic hypoxic zones where she and her colleagues seek to understand how microbial processes shape biogeochemical cycling. Her research related to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill examined the distribution of deep water plumes of oil and gas, and her group continues to measure the activities of the microorganisms that break down oil and gas and assess the impacts of the spill on blue water benthic and pelagic ecosystems. Joye has published over 225 peer-reviewed scientific works to date and is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography, the American Geophysical Union, the American Academy of Microbiology, and The Explorers Club.

Devyani Kar

Member

Dr. Devyani Kar is a Principal Resilience Scientist at Jacobs, where in addition to leading resilience initiatives, she works on Nature-based Solutions to mitigate natural hazards and create ecosystem benefits for communities. Previously, at Stantec, as a Senior Climate Resilience Scientist, she worked in Gulf of Mexico and nationwide on climate risk and adaptation projects. At the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), she was the Mississippi River Delta (MRD) Coalition's Coastal Projects and Programs Committee Chair and was actively engaged in advocating for the funding and implementation of the Coalition's priority coastal projects in Louisiana. At the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) of Louisiana, she managed all stages of natural infrastructure projects such as marsh and barrier island restoration for risk reduction and conservation of coastal ecosystems and habitats susceptible to Relative Sea Level Rise (RSLR), intense storms, and damage by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Devyani has a Bachelor of Planning degree from the School of Planning and Architecture, India; a Master of Environmental Management with a coastal focus from Duke University; and a doctorate in Oceanography from Louisiana State University. She is a member of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), the Project Management Institute (PMI), and the Association of Climate Change Officers (ACCO).

Talea L. Mayo

Member

Dr. Talea Mayo is an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics at Emory University. She is a computational mathematician whose research surrounds coastal flood risk from hurricanes. In particular she uses numerical methods to understand storm surges and how they will be impacted by climate change. She was awarded the Early-Career Research Fellowship by the National Academies of Sciences Gulf Research Program and the Early Career Faculty Innovator Award by the National Center for Atmospheric Research. She earned her Ph.D. and M.S. in Computational and Applied Mathematics from The University of Texas at Austin in 2013 and 2010, respectively, and her B.S. in Mathematics from Grambling State University in 2008.

Steven A. Murawski

Member

Dr. Murawski is a fishery biologist specializing in population and ecosystem dynamics. He has 45+ years of professional experience in both government and academia. Murawski worked for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for 35 years, last serving as the Director of Scientific Programs and Chief Science Advisor for the National Marine Fisheries Service. Murawski was a principal scientific advisor to the U.S. government during the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Subsequently he has been actively involved in assessing the long-term environmental impacts of the spill, and its implications for responding to future spills the Gulf of Mexico and globally. Murawski served as Principal Investigator for the Center for Integrated Modeling and Analysis of Gulf Ecosystems (C-IMAGE) a multi-national oil spill research consortium funded through the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI). Murawski currently is the Director of the Center for Ocean Mapping and Innovative Technologies, a cooperative agreement among NOAA’s Office of Coast Survey and the University of South Florida. He is an awardee of the Department of Commerce Gold Medal and a recipient of the Senior Executive Service Meritorious Service Award, conferred by President Obama, among many other professional recognitions. His Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology was conferred in 1984 from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Eric C. Schwaab

Member

Mr. Eric Schwaab is the Senior V.P. for People and Nature at Environmental Defense Fund where he leads global work to advance sustainable fisheries management and ocean health, climate smart agriculture, coastal and watershed resilience, sustainable freshwater systems, natural climate solutions and climate resilient food systems. Eric previously led the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Service, served as acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Conservation and Management at NOAA and as Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources, Fisheries Director and Director of Forests, Wildlife and Heritage at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Eric has helped lead major conservation and restoration efforts in estuarine, ocean and terrestrial systems, and led and supported multiple state, federal and international fisheries management reforms. He helped create the National Conservation Leadership Institute and the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. Eric completed his undergraduate studies in Biology at McDaniel College, earned an M.A. in Geography and Environmental Planning at Towson University, and completed the leadership program for state and local government executives at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Martin D. Smith

Member

Dr. Martin D. Smith is the George M. Woodwell Distinguished Professor of Environmental Economics in the Nicholas School of the Environment and the Department of Economics at Duke University. He earned a Ph.D. at University of California, Davis in Agricultural and Resource Economics (2001) and a B.A. at Stanford University in Public Policy (1992). Smith studies the economics of the oceans and works on bioeconomics of the fishery, economics of global seafood markets and trade, and economics of coastal climate change adaptation. He has served as Editor-in-Chief of the journal Marine Resource Economics and as a member of the Ocean Studies Board of the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, a member of the Scientific and Statistical Committee of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and President of the International Institute of Fisheries Economics and Trade. Smith has received national and international awards, including an Aldo Leopold Leadership Fellowship, Quality of Research Discovery from the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, and Fellow of the International Institute of Fisheries Economics and Trade. His research has been funded by the National Science Foundation and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Eric Tate

Member

Dr. Eric Tate is a Professor in the School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. His research and teaching lie at the confluence of environmental hazards and society, examined primarily through geospatial models of flood hazards, vulnerability, and risk. His research interests fall into the general areas of social vulnerability indicators, flood risk reduction, and uncertainty and sensitivity analysis. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Anthropocene Alliance; on the Resilient America Roundtable of the National Academies of Sciences and Engineering, & Medicine; as co-chair of the National Academies study committee on spatial screening tools for environmental justice; and as co-author of the Adaptation chapter of the Fifth National Climate Assessment. Dr. Tate earned a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of South Carolina, an M.S. in Environmental & Water Resources Engineering from the University of Texas, and a B.S. in Environmental Engineering from Rice University.

Ian M. Voparil

Member

Dr. Ian Voparil is currently the Senior Business Development Manager, Offshore Wind for Burns & McDonnell. He has worked in offshore energy around the world for 16 years in project and risk management of oil and gas exploration and development opportunities for Royal Dutch Shell. Ian was Shell's Business Continuity Manager for Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Operations. In that role, his responsibilities included Shell's response to climate change impacts to U.S. Gulf Coast assets and operations. He coordinated Shell's investments with those of local and state agencies, for example via two public-private-partnership agreements between oil and gas producers, local and state governments, academic and NGO organizations around two areas of national significance due to energy infrastructure, societal and ecosystem value. He served on Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Agency's Finance Committee to fund the State's Master Plan. He was appointed to the U.S. OCS Scientific Committee, the U.S. Oceans Research Advisory Panel, the UNESCO Advisory Committee on Marine Spatial Planning, and the Dean's Advisory Committee for the College of Energy, Coast, and Environment at Louisiana State University. Ian has a B.A. from Boston University, M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Maine and was a lecturer and post-doctoral researcher in ocean sciences at the University of California Santa Cruz before joining the energy industry.

Michael G. Feldman

Staff Officer