
National HCP Coalition Annual Meeting

November 17 - 18, 2020

Virtual Meeting

Speaker Biographies

Keynote Speakers



Bruce Babbitt

Bruce Babbitt served as Secretary of the Interior from 1993 to 2001, as Governor of Arizona from 1978 to 1987 and as Attorney General of Arizona from 1975 to 1978.

With degrees in geology, geophysics and law, Babbitt was elected to statewide office as Attorney General on his first foray into elective politics at age 36. He subsequently served as Governor for nine years.

As Governor Babbitt brought environmental and resource management to the forefront in Arizona. He personally negotiated and steered to passage the Arizona Groundwater Management Act of 1980, which remains the most comprehensive water regulatory system in the nation. He was also responsible for creation of the Arizona Department of Water Resources and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and a major expansion of the state park system.

Appointed Secretary of the Interior by President Clinton in 1993, Babbitt served for eight years, during which he led in the creation of the forest plan in the Pacific Northwest, restoration of the Florida Everglades, passage of the California Desert Protection Act, and legislation for the National Wildlife Refuge system.

As a certified fire fighter, Babbitt brought his front-line experience to creating a new federal wild land fire policy that emphasizes the role of fire in maintenance and restoration of natural ecosystems. He pioneered the use of habitat conservation plans under the Endangered Species Act and worked with President Clinton to create twenty-two new national monuments, including the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument in Utah.

Babbitt is perhaps best remembered by American school children as the Secretary who brought the wolves back to Yellowstone.

Babbitt is the author of “Cities in the Wilderness” recently issued by Island Press, in which he lays out a new vision of land use in America. He currently serves as a Chairman of the World Wildlife Fund.

Babbitt resides in Washington with his wife, Hattie, a former Ambassador to the Organization of American States. They have two children, Christopher, a lawyer residing in Washington, DC and T.J. a teacher in the Los Angeles public school system.



Mamie Parker, PhD

An executive coach, facilitator, and inspirational public speaker, Mamie Parker is a retired fish and wildlife biologist who rose to the rank of Assistant Director for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in Washington, DC. She made history when appointed the first African American USFWS Northeast Regional Director in the Senior Executive Service. She also served as Chief of Staff and Chief of Fisheries. Mamie has vast experience in water resources planning, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Clean Water Act, wetland protection, and restoration.

As the USFWS Assistant Director, she served as the facilitator at the White House Conference on the Environment. Dr. Parker played a major role in implementing the Coastal Barrier Resources Act system mapping and flood insurance, Coastal Program, and protecting our nation's waters from pollutants and invasive species such as listing the snakehead fish as an injurious wildlife species. She helped create the National Fish Habitat Action Plan in partnership, for which the President of the United States presented her with the Presidential Rank Award, the highest award given to government employees. She also received the Department of Interior's Silver Award presented by the Secretary of the USFWS.

Her executive coach clients include the Gates Millennium Scholars Program; Bureau of Land Management; Defense Language Institute; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); the Maryland Department of Labor and the Department of the Interior. Dr. Parker also serves as principal of EcoLogix Group, Inc.

Dr. Parker is a leader in various organizations and serves on the Board of Directors of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Virginia Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, Duke University School of the Environment Visitors Board, Northland College, Student Conservation Association, the National Wildlife Refuge Association, Brown Advisory Sustainable Investment, Marstel-Day Consulting Company, Defenders of Wildlife, the Potomac Conservancy, and the Chesapeake Conservancy.

The Governor of Virginia recently appointed her to the Board of Directors of the Game and Inland Fisheries. The Council of World Women Leaders awarded her with an Aspen Institute Fellowship where she worked in the Kingdom of Lesotho and in Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa. She is a 2018 winner of the prestigious William K. Reilly Award from American University School of Public Affairs' Center for Environmental Policy, and a 2015 Champion of the Chesapeake from Chesapeake Conservancy. Born and raised in Arkansas, she was inducted into the Arkansas Outdoor Hall of Fame by the Governor.

Dr. Parker holds a Bachelor of Science in biology from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB), a Master of Science in fish and wildlife management, and a doctoral degree in limnology from the

University of Wisconsin. She also received executive leadership training at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

When she is not working, Mamie enjoys watching movies, hiking and mentoring young ladies.

Session Speakers

Trish Adams

National Habitat Conservation Planning Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 NHCPC Program Committee Member

Federal Partnerships for Streamlining HCP Development and Implementation – USFWS Update

Trish Adams serves as the National Habitat Conservation Planning Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) in its Headquarters Office in Falls Church, Virginia. Prior to joining Headquarters, for 14 years she was located in the South Florida Ecological Services Office, Vero Beach, Florida. During her tenure, she served as the South Florida Habitat Conservation Planning Coordinator, Coastal Program Coordinator, and served as the lead Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and Endangered Species Act section 7 biologist for large-scale Federal coastal navigation, beach renourishment, and port expansion projects. She began her career with the Service in 1999.

Prior to the joining the Service, Trish gained 8 years of field experience in coastal resource management and fisheries research working for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas and the Florida Marine and Wildlife Research Institute, respectively. She holds a B.S. degree in Marine Science from Stockton University, New Jersey.

Paola Bernazzani*

Principal, ICF

NHCPC HCP Improvement Committee Chair

Federal Partnerships for Streamlining HCP Development and Implementation – Report from NHCPC Improvement Committee

Paola is a conservation planner and principal at ICF with 20 years' experience in habitat conservation planning. She currently supports eight regional HCPs or ECPs nationally as a senior project manager and project director. Paola leads the conservation planning practice within the Eastern line of business for ICF and teaches a class on Endangered Species Act compliance through the UC Davis extension program.

Lucas Bare

Senior Conservation Planner

Federal Partnerships for Streamlining HCP Development and Implementation – Report from NHCPC Improvement Committee

Lucas Bare is a senior conservation planner with over 11 years of professional experience in environmental planning, natural resources management, and conservation biology. Lucas specializes in advising clients on Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance and permitting options, habitat conservation planning, and impact analysis at the landscape or regional scale to develop habitat conservation plans (HCPs), eagle conservation plans (ECPs), and environmental impact statements (EISs). Lucas manages projects for clients across multiple sectors, including energy development,

transmission, water, and local and federal land and resource management. His technical expertise is in conservation biology and impact analysis for natural resources.

Chris Chaput

Senior Planner, Thurston County

Working Lands' Role in Conservation Strategies – Thurston County HCP

Christina Chaput is a senior planner with Thurston County government's Community Planning Division. She has been with the Department since 2014. Currently, Chris is leading the County's development of the Habitat Conservation Plan, as well as other natural resources programs the county oversees.

Valerie Covey*

NHCPC Director and Board President

Precinct Three Commissioner, Williamson County

Welcome and Closing Remarks

Valerie Covey was elected to represent Williamson County Precinct Three on the Williamson County Commissioner's Court in November 2006 and was reelected to her fourth full term in November 2020.

She serves the county by participating on various boards and committees, including: the Williamson County Conservation Foundation, the Williamson County Mental Health Task Force, the Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter Board, the Williamson County Audit Committee, the Williamson County Investment Committee, Opportunities for Williamson and Burnet Counties, the CAPCOG General Assembly and the National Habitat Conservation Foundation Coalition, of which she chairs. In February 2020, Covey was reappointed by Governor Greg Abbott to the Governing Board of the Texas Indigent Defense Commission.

She attended the University of Texas at Austin, where she earned a degree in accounting and has been licensed as a certified public accountant for more than 35 years. She and her husband of 35 years, Mark Covey, have lived in Georgetown, TX since 1994, and are blessed with three sons and a daughter-in-law.

Terah Donovan*

Principal, Environmental Science Associates

NHCPC Director, Board Secretary, and Program Committee Member

Report from NHCPC Board of Directors: Coalition Year in Review

Terah Donovan is Principal Conservation Biologist at Environmental Science Associates. Terah manages an integrated natural resource management program for rare and endangered species and ecosystems in California. She balances at-risk species conservation and recovery with economic development, infrastructure construction, and operations and maintenance. Together with her clients, she ensures project outcomes that meet regulatory requirements and result in better ecological and financial outcomes. Her team integrates best available science, management and monitoring methods, and technology into their projects. She creates project opportunities for her colleagues that allow for professional engagement and growth.

Terah has supported the planning of 13 HCPs and implementation of 6. She serves as a Director and Secretary of the National HCP Coalition and Program Committee member. She is a Director of the San Diego Duke Alumni Club, focusing on environmental and diversity programming. She was Alumna-in-Residence at Duke University in 2017. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Science from Northwestern University and a Masters of Environmental Management in Conservation Science and Policy from Duke University. She is a returned Peace Corps Volunteer from Bolivia. In 2020, she learned to surf.

Abigail Fateman*

NHCPC Director and Program Committee Chair
 Executive Director, East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy
Annual Meeting Chairwoman

Abigail Fateman is the Executive Director of the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy, which implements the region’s Habitat Conservation Plan/ Natural Community Conservation Plan. She was involved in the development of the Plan (starting in 2003) and after Plan adoption served as the Land and Habitat Manager before becoming the Executive Director. Ms. Fateman earned a M.S. from the University of Michigan’s School of Natural Resources and Environment, where her research focused on stream ecology and monitoring stream health in urbanized areas. Ms. Fateman has been involved in conservation efforts including land management, scientific research and policy development for over twenty years.

Chad Furl, PhD*

Chief Science Officer, Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan
Managing Groundwater Systems for Special Status Species – Edwards Aquifer HCP

Dr. Chad Furl serves as the Chief Science Officer of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP). Dr. Furl holds a Doctorate of Philosophy from the University of Texas at San Antonio in Environmental Engineering and undergraduate/graduate degrees from Baylor University. Dr. Furl is tasked with managing scientific aspects of the EAHCP including applied research projects, data collection and maintenance, and long-term offsite refugia facilities.

Gary Frazer

Assistance Director, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Partnerships for Streamlining HCP Development and Implementation – Latest in USFWS Leadership

Gary Frazer is the Assistant Director for Ecological Services, assuming that position in August 2009. As Assistant Director, Gary is the senior career official responsible for policy development, budget, and oversight for the Fish and Wildlife Service’s administration of the Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Coastal Barrier Resources Act, and other environmental protection authorities delivered through the Service’s Ecological Services program and field stations.

Julia Fonseca

Environmental Planning Manager, Pima County
Aligning Permit Strategies for Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act – Pima County HCP

Ms. Fonseca has worked on land and water issues in southern Arizona since 1986. She is Environmental Planning Manager for the Office of Sustainability and Conservation at Pima County. She works with other individuals, agencies and groups toward conservation of species, land and water under the umbrella of Pima County’s habitat conservation plan. In her previous 22-year career with Pima County Flood Control District, Julia worked on water rights, groundwater recharge and floodplain protection and restoration. She co-authored a widely cited report for EPA regarding the ecological and hydrological significance of ephemeral and intermittent streams in the Southwestern US.

Angela Hughes

Senior Management Fellow, City of Fort Lauderdale
Spotlight on Regional HCPs - Ft. Lauderdale Beach HCP

Angela Hughes is a Senior Management Fellow with the City of Fort Lauderdale and received her M.P.A. from Valdosta State University in 2018. At the City, Angela works for the City Manager on bespoke, special projects that require either extensive research or bringing various stakeholders together. Before working for the City of Fort Lauderdale, Angela served ten years in academic libraries as an assistant to two different institutions. Her years at Florida State College of Jacksonville and College of Coastal Georgia cultivated her keen sense of research and contributes to her passion of public service.

Cindy Kolomechuk

Western Oregon HCP Project Manager, Oregon Department of Forestry
Resiliency and Adaption during COVID-19 – Western Oregon HCP

Cindy Kolomechuk serves as the Western Oregon HCP Project Manager for the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). ODF manages about 750,000 acres of state forestland for ecological, economic, recreation, and other public values. Like all ODF employees, she also responds to wildfires that threaten public and private lands during fire season. As a project manager, she strives to design sound technical and stakeholder engagement processes that are open, transparent, and equitable for all participants. Prior to her current role, she served as the National Fire Plan Coordinator for ODF, led one of the first national forest collaborative groups to utilize stewardship contracting on the Mount Hood National Forest, and developed the first Natural Hazards Mitigation plan in the country. Cindy hails from western North Carolina, and has an MS from the University of South Carolina.

William Lynn

Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Spotlight on Regional HCPs – Alabama Beach Mouse HCP

Bill Lynn is a Wildlife Biologist and employed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. He is the recovery lead and permitting lead for the Alabama beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus ammobates*) in the Alabama Ecological Services Field Office.

Betsy Miller*

Land Resources Manager/Assistant General Manager, San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District
 NHCP Director
Spotlight on Regional HCPs – Santa Ana River Wash HCP

Betsy Miller has worked in habitat conservation planning and implementation for nearly twenty years. She currently serves as the Land Resources Manager/Assistant General Manager for the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District, where she oversaw adoption and now implementation of the Upper Santa Ana River Wash Habitat Conservation Plan. Prior to joining the District, she worked for the City of San Diego for 17 years supporting and managing implementation of the Multiple Species Conservation Program, a joint HCP/NCCP adopted in 1997, and planning and implementation of the Vernal Pool Habitat Conservation Plan, an HCP adopted in 2018. In these roles, Betsy gained expertise in land use and development, environmental compliance, long-term monitoring programs, parks and natural resource planning, and recreation management in both the Planning and Parks & Recreation Departments. Betsy graduated from Whitman College with a degree in Biology and holds a Master of Arts from San Diego State University in Geography with a specialty in Natural Resources Management.

Betsy serves as a Board member for the National Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition, and is a past Board member of the Los Penasquitos Lagoon Foundation and the Junior League of San Diego. She has also volunteered with Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego County since 2006 and is as an associate editor for the Natural Areas Journal. In 2015, she was selected as a finalist for San Diego Magazine's Woman of the Year.

Clark Morrison

Natural Resource Attorney, Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP

Aligning Permit Strategies for Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act – Santa Ana River HCP

Clark Morrison is a natural resource attorney specializing in wetlands and endangered species matters. He has more than thirty years of experience in the permitting of complex public and private projects, including wetland fill projects under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and California's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, the Federal and California Endangered Species Acts, and other state and federal laws. Mr. Morrison has particular expertise in conservation-related programs, including habitat conservation planning, mitigation and conservation banking, in-lieu fee programs, conservation easements and similar mechanisms. He is recognized nationally for his work, having been acknowledged by *Best Lawyers* as both Natural Resource Lawyer of the Year (2017) and Land Use Lawyer of the Year (2021) for San Francisco. He is a frequent writer and lecturer on natural resource law subjects, and is co-author of the recently published 621-page treatise, *Natural Resource Regulation in California: A Practical Guide to Agency Permitting and Procedures* (Solano Press).

Kimberly Meitzen, PhD

Associate Professor, Texas State University

Resiliency and Adaption during COVID-19 – Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan

Kimberly teaches undergraduate courses on river processes, river basin management, and biogeography, and graduate courses on water resources and river and society related problem solving. Her research focuses on environmental flows, river channel and floodplain habitat suitability and connectivity modeling, and riparian ecosystems. Kimberly is currently the TXST representative for the Stakeholder Committee of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan, co-chair of the Upper San Marcos Watershed Protection Plan, and serves on the board of the San Marcos River Foundation. Kimberly received her B.S. at UT Austin, M.S. and Ph.D. from University of South Carolina, Columbia and was a Post-doc Fellow with Duke University and The Nature Conservancy of North Carolina.

Sandi Matsumoto

The Nature Conservancy

Managing Groundwater Systems for Special Status Species – Sustainable Groundwater Management for Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems

Sandi Matsumoto is [The Nature Conservancy's](#) Director of the California Water Program. She leads a multi-disciplinary team focused on securing a sustainable and resilient water future for California. The Water Program is working to secure the wintering grounds of the Pacific Flyway, to revive healthy rivers to sustain salmon, and to advance sustainable groundwater management that ensures drinking water for people and supports nature. During her 16 years with TNC, she has worked at the nexus of water and agriculture across the state, including by launching [BirdReturns](#) and [TNC's efforts](#) to implement the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. A Central Valley native, she earned her B.A. from Yale University and M.B.A. from the Anderson School at UCLA. In 2017, she was appointed by Governor Brown to serve as a board member on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy. She was a member of the first cohort of the [Water Solutions Network](#) and a member of the Water Leaders class of 2005.

Steve Mayo

Program Manager, San Joaquin Council of Governments

Working Lands' Role in Conservation Strategies – San Joaquin County HCP

Steven Mayo is the Program Manager of the San Joaquin County Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan at the San Joaquin Council of Governments which administers the county-wide plan which was approved in 2001. He has been managing the plan which encompasses over 900,000 acres of land area and 97 covered species for over 16 years. Currently, the SJMSCP holds over 18,000 acres of preserve lands comprised of active row crop, irrigated pasture, dry grazing land and natural habitat types.

Kelly Niland

Grants Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Federal Partnerships for Streamlining HCP Development and Implementation – USFWS Update

Kelly Niland has administered Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund Grants for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) since 2010. Prior to the joining the Service, Kelly spent nearly a decade with the Trust for Public Land's Federal Affairs program, working to secure federal funding for land conservation and influence conservation policy. She holds a master's degree in environmental science and policy from Johns Hopkins University.

Dave Ramey*

Principal, Kadesh & Associates

NHCPC Government Relations Committee Chair

Report from NHCPC Government Relations Committee

Dave Ramey is a Principal at Kadesh & Associates. His career in public service has included over three decades of experience as a senior staffer in the House of Representatives. He served nearly twenty years as Chief of Staff to Representative Ken Calvert (R-CA), Chairman of the California Republican Delegation, where he administered the office's political, legislative, and communications functions. Prior to serving as Chief of Staff to Representative Calvert, Mr. Ramey served as his Legislative Director where he oversaw the office's legislative and budget affairs. From 1985 to 1993, Mr. Ramey served as Senior Advisor on Foreign Policy and Defense Issues for the House Republican Conference;

Policy Committee; and Research Committee -- all under the Chairmanships of Congressman Jerry Lewis (R-CA). Prior to departing Congress, Mr. Ramey led the California Republican Administrative Personnel group and he currently serves as President of the bipartisan California State Society. Mr. Ramey graduated from the College of William and Mary in 1984 with a B.A. in International Relations and received his Masters of Arts with Highest Distinction from the Naval War College in National Security and Strategic Studies.

Teifion Rice-Evans

Managing Principal at Economic & Planning Systems, Inc. (EPS).

Resiliency and Adaption during COVID-19 – Economic Forecasts and Resilient HCPs

Teifion Rice-Evans is a Managing Principal at Economic & Planning Systems, Inc. (EPS). Teifion is a land use economist and public finance specialist with over twenty-five years of experience. He directs complex consulting assignments in the areas of conservation finance and economics, real estate economics, economic impact analysis, and growth forecasting. His clients include public agencies, non-profits, and private developers and investors. Teifion focuses on providing clarity on economic and planning issues to support sound policy-making and the prudent investment of public and private resources. He is based out of the EPS Oakland Office and works throughout the U.S.

Teifion has particular expertise in the financing and economics of Habitat Conservation Plans. Starting in the mid-1990s, Teifion has supported the development, implementation, and update of dozens of regional Habitat Conservation Plans. This has included the development of HCP financing plans and the associated adoption of financing mechanisms as well as analyses of the economic benefits of regional HCPs. As part of his broader practice, he tracks economic and development trends and frequently participates in seminars of the impact of COVID 19 on real estate development and municipal finance.

Alanna Sullivan*

Senior Biologist, Environmental Science Associates

Focus on Monitoring and Adaptive Management – City of Carlsbad HCP

Alanna is an environmental biologist with over 10 years of experience. She has worked with the City of Carlsbad as their Preserve Steward for the past five years, helping to facilitate the city’s HCP. She also leads monitoring efforts for special-status plants and animals across San Diego County open space and oversees various habitat restoration projects. Alanna has a deep conviction that humans are meant to be good stewards of the earth, and believes that empathy, collaboration, and innovation are necessary for a good and fulfilled existence.

John Swett

Program Manager, Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP)

Managing Groundwater Systems for Special Status Species – LCR MSCP

John Swett has been the Program Manager for the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP) since 2008. Prior to becoming Program Manager, he was the Wildlife Group Manager for the LCR MSCP and was responsible for conducting monitoring and research projects on 27 threatened, endangered, and sensitive species and their habitats within the MSCP planning area. John has worked in the natural resources field since 1979, including 11 years with the US Forest Service, prior to accepting a position with the Bureau of Reclamation in 1992. He has a BS in Wildlife Management from the University of Maine and a MS in Forestry from the University of Massachusetts.

Jennifer Winters

Activity Manager, County of Volusia

Focus on Monitoring and Adaptive Management – Volusia County HCP

Jennifer Winters is a Volusia County, FL native who has been working with the Volusia County Environmental Management Division in the Sea Turtle Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Program since 2002. She graduated from Florida Atlantic University in 1996 where she studied Geography and Environmental Science. After college, she worked for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in different positions as an Environmental Specialist in wildlife biology, domestic wastewater, and submerged lands and environmental resource permitting departments. In 2002 she went back to Volusia County to work as the Field Manager for the Sea Turtle HCP. In 2004, she became the HCP Coordinator and in early 2020 she was promoted to an Activity Manager position where she still oversees the HCP in the role of Protected Species Specialist (PSS), as required in the Plan, and is also currently overseeing the County’s Manatee Protection Plan program. She played an instrumental role in the 2005 renewal of the original ITP issued to Volusia County. When she arrived on the job, the first permit had expired. She worked with the original PSS to get the ITP re-issued with a 25-year operating timeline and has worked through multiple other ITP amendments and HCP updates. The focus of her presentation today will cover some of those efforts and challenges.

Session Facilitators

Kimberlee Harvey

Environmental Conservation Program Manager & Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Coordinating Committee Secretary, Jointly funded position by the City of Austin & Travis County

Kimberlee has over 24 years of experience in the environmental field working in the academic, private, and public sectors. She began working for the Balcones Canyonlands HCP program in 2012 and currently serves as the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Coordinating Committee Secretary, which is a position jointly funded by the City of Austin and Travis County, Texas.

Niki Desjardin

Ecological Associates, Inc., Jensen Beach, FL

Niki has over 15 years of experience managing protected species monitoring programs and coordinating/conducting field work in Florida. Her work focuses on the implementation of sea turtle and shorebird permit-compliance monitoring for coastal construction projects. Niki also has experience preparing Biological and Environmental Assessments and HCPs for public and private sector clients. She is responsible for the management and oversight of EAI’s Coastal Protected Species Division, ensuring projects perform according to the highest quality standards, are within budget, and are timely. Niki serves as EAI’s Director of Operations, coordinating with the Company CEO on strategic planning, supporting business development, and overseeing senior staff.

Rebecca Pfaller

Conservation Biologist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Rebecca Pfaller is a Conservation Biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. She has worked on HCPs and other non-traditional Section 6 projects throughout the

state of Florida for the past 12 years. She currently serves on the Executive Board of the National HCP Coalition as well as the Planning Committee

Nathan Pence *

Executive Manager of Environmental Science and Community Affairs, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority

Nathan Pence serves as the Executive Manager of Environmental Science and Community Affairs for the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority in Seguin, Texas, and oversees the environmental stewardship and associated programs for the entire river basin. A large part of his time is dedicated to education of local elected officials and facilitating and participating in public stakeholder processes. The basin is facing endangered species issues and finding solutions that steward the resource while allowing for economic development and human use, is Nathan's passion.

Prior to working for GBRA, Nathan served as the Threatened and Endangered Species Executive Director for the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) in San Antonio, Texas, where he facilitated and managed the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Program (EAHCP). The EAHCP is a management plan implemented by multiple stakeholder groups to provide for stewardship of regional resources and management of the Edwards Aquifer.

Before EAA, Nathan worked for the City of New Braunfels. During his tenure with New Braunfels, he worked with local tourism officials and environmentalists, to improve the economic development opportunities in the community, while protecting the integrity of the natural resources.

Nathan is also very involved in his local community, serving as Past President of the Board for the United Way of Comal County. He is also a founding member of the National Habitat Conservation Plan Coalition.

Tara Morin

Chief of Staff, Consero Solutions Davis, CA

Tara Morin serves as Chief of Staff at a small consulting firm in Davis, CA. Consero is a team that delivers public policy priorities to the benefit local communities and the environment. During her time at Consero she was part of the project team that helped the Yolo Habitat Conservancy obtain their state and federal Endangered Species Act in 2018. Since then, Consero has assisted with the transition of the Yolo HCP/NCCP from planning to implementation. In her work with Consero clients, Tara strives to utilize her education and experience to foster strong relationships between local businesses and environmental advocates.

* National HCP Coalition Member