

# Speaker Look Book

## ULI Coastal Forum 2021: Preparing Communities for Federal Resilience Funding

December 7, 2021



## Introduction

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is expected to be signed into law. This generation defining, bipartisan legislation articulates a strong commitment to advance climate change preparedness. However, now the focus must shift towards finance and implementation of initiatives outlined in the Act and other federal programs, begging answers to questions, like:

- What local implications and opportunities for partnership should ULI members be aware of?
- How can coastal communities prepare for funding and competitive grants?
- What are the community-level needs and barriers that need to be overcome to leverage federally supported resilience projects?

This Fall's Coastal Forum aims to discuss these critical questions and create an opportunity for attendees to connect with experts in real estate and land use development on local strategies to foster climate resilience in coastal communities.

## About the ULI Coastal Forum

The mission of the [Coastal Forum](#) is to convene, collect, and share best practices and emerging market trends in coastal real estate development and community resilience, focusing on strategies to protect and strengthen communities at risk due to sea level rise, storms, and other climate hazards through innovative infrastructure and real estate projects within coastal areas.

The Coastal Forum seeks to provide an opportunity for members to meet and build a network with peers of different professional backgrounds involved in coastal development and/or resilience.

- Offer a forum to share best practices for coastal development, resilience, and planning
- Provide a targeted group to share and provide private sector input into new tools and resources
- Provide an opportunity for leadership and expertise development in coastal development and resilience

## ULI Coastal Forum Steering Committee

**Garrett Avery**, Senior Manager, AECOM

**Wayne Cobleigh**, Vice President, Client Services, GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.

**Leigh Fletcher**, Managing Member, Fletcher Fischer Pollack P.L.

**Jason Hellendrung**, Vice President, Planning and Design, Tetra Tech

**Tom Jost**, Chief Operating Officer at Sherwood Design Engineers

**William Kenworthy**, Regional Leader of Planning, HOK

**James Murley**, Chief Resiliency Officer, Miami Dade County

**Josh Murphy**, Senior Geospatial Analyst, NOAA Office of Coastal Management; Adjunct Faculty, Georgetown URP

**Chuck Schilke**, Director and Senior Lecturer, The Edward St. John Real Estate Program, Johns Hopkins Carey Business School

**Jack Smith**, Partner, Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP

**Rives Taylor**, Firmwide Design Resilience Co-Leader, Principal, Gensler

**Greg West**, Chief Executive Officer, ZOM Living

**Katie Wholey**, Resilience Consultant, ARUP

## 2021 Coastal Forum: Speaker Biographies

### Jonathan Altenberg

Executive Director
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Chicago, IL

Jon Altenberg serves as the Executive Director of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLC), a bi-national coalition that works with federal, state and provincial governments to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes ecosystem through development and implementation of a comprehensive Great Lakes Protection and Restoration Plan. Mr. Altenberg received a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from George Washington University and a Master's degree in Communications and Integrated Marketing from Northwestern University. He has over 15 years of experience in the fields of politics, communications and marketing. He has spent a portion of his career working at the U.S. Capitol and Midwest State Legislatures. His background in public service, government affairs and management gives him the skills and commitment to work with the member mayors to be a strong voice for the GLSLC communities on both sides of the border.



### Steven Bingler

Founder & CEO
Concordia
New Orleans, LA

Steven Bingler is the Founder and CEO of Concordia, an Architecture, Planning and Community Engagement firm located in New Orleans, Louisiana. Bingler is a leading advocate for innovative, equitable and community-centered architectural, urban design and stakeholder engagement solutions. His work has received support from Ford, Rockefeller, Bill and Melinda Gates, and other foundations. His research papers have been widely published and his op-eds have appeared in the New York Times and Washington Post. Most recently, he was the principal investigator for the *Global Transformation Roundtable*, a Rockefeller Foundation funded initiative that produced "Sea Changes," a document outlining planning principles for communities to address climate changes. Bingler is included in Wikipedia's roster of internationally acclaimed urban planners.



## Daniel Bresette

Executive Director  
Environmental and Energy Study Institute  
Washington, D.C.

Daniel Bresette serves as Executive Director of the Environmental and Energy Study Institute in Washington, D.C.—a non-profit education and policy organization. Before joining EESI, Daniel served as the Vice President of Policy at the Alliance to Save Energy, which also involved leading the Energy-Efficient Codes Coalition as its Executive Director. Previously, Daniel was the Maryland Energy Administration’s Senior Energy Policy Manager and oversaw a diverse portfolio of state energy efficiency financing initiatives. He has provided expert testimony to Congress, the Maryland General Assembly, and other regulatory agencies on energy efficiency topics, presented at national conferences, and served on a range of national committees and work groups. Previously, he worked in the strategy practice at Booz Allen Hamilton. He began his career with U.S. Sen. Jim Jeffords (I-VT). Daniel attended Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in government and international relations. Later, he graduated from the University of Maryland’s Robert H. Smith School of Business with a master’s degree in business administration.



## Kevin Bush

Deputy Assistant Secretary For Grant Programs  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)  
Washington, D.C.

As the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Grant Programs, Mr. Bush oversees affordable housing and community development programs, including the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnerships program, the Housing Trust Fund, and CDBG Disaster Recovery funds, in addition to Department-wide energy and environmental policy. Previously, he served as Washington, DC’s first Chief Resilience Officer, where he led efforts to prepare the nation’s capital for climate change, technological disruption, and a changing economy. He also served as the Chief of Resilience and Emergency Preparedness at the District’s Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency during the District’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Bush also served on President Obama’s Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force and at the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Not a stranger to HUD, Mr. Bush previously served in the Office of Field Policy and Management, Office of Community Planning and Development, and Office of the Secretary. He has also been both a Presidential Management Fellow and City of Chicago



Mayoral Fellow. Bush holds a Master’s of Urban Planning from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor’s of Arts in Business from Michigan State University.

## Jim Finch

Director of Finance  
Town of Branford  
Branford, Connecticut

James Finch (Jim) was hired as Branford’s Finance Director in 1998. Previously he served five years as the Director of Management and Budget for the City of Norwalk. Jim also worked for six years in the City of New Haven’s Controller’s Office. Jim is a member of the CT GFOA and currently serves as a representative to the New England States GFOA (NESGFOA) and served as NESGFOA President in 2018. In 2019 Jim worked extensively with State Senator Christine Cohen to draft PA19-77 “An Act Authorizing Municipal Climate Change and Coastal Resiliency Reserve Funds” which was signed into law by Governor Ned Lamont on July 1, 2019.

Jim holds Master’s Degree in Public Administration from the University of Pittsburgh’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Seton Hall University.



**Maria Honeycutt** *(invited/tentative)*

Assistant Director for Resilience Science and Technology  
 White House Office of Science and Technology Policy  
 Washington, D.C.



Dr. Maria Honeycutt, CFM, is the Assistant Director for Resilience Science and Technology at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). She is responsible for connecting and coordinating science and technology (S&T) activities relevant to natural hazards and other threats within OSTP, across White House components (e.g., National Security Council; Office of Management and Budget; Domestic Climate Policy Office; Council on Environmental Quality), among Federal agencies, and with external partners. She co-chairs the National Science and Technology Council’s Subcommittee on Resilience Science and Technology, a new interagency forum for coordinating development and use of resilience-oriented S&T and research and development. Dr. Honeycutt is detailed to OSTP from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA’s) Office for Coastal Management, where since 2008 she has applied her expertise in coastal geoscience and hazard mitigation towards developing national policy and tools that build community resilience to flooding. Dr. Honeycutt was NOAA’s senior staff lead to the Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force and provided subject matter expertise on coastal hazards and climate change to organizations including the National Academies’ Transportation Research Board, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Highway Administration, and National Park Service.

Prior to joining NOAA, Dr. Honeycutt served as a Congressional Science Fellow for U.S. Senator Bill Nelson (FL), a position sponsored by the U.S. Geological Survey and Geological Society of America as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science’s S&T Policy Fellows Program. In the Senate, her issue portfolio included natural hazards, flood insurance reform, water resources, climate change, and fisheries. She spent the preceding seven years as an engineering consultant leading post-hurricane flood recovery mapping projects along the Gulf Coast for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Dr. Honeycutt got her start in natural hazards engineering, policy, and risk reduction by serving as a Knauss Sea Grant Marine Policy Fellow in FEMA’s Mitigation Directorate, contributing to post-disaster forensic studies and national building science guidance.

Dr. Honeycutt earned a B.A. in geology from Smith College, an M.S. and Ph.D. in oceanography from the University of Delaware and is professionally registered as a Certified Floodplain Manager.

## Allen Kratz

Principal  
 Resilience Works, LLC  
 Hoboken, NJ



Allen Kratz, principal of Resilience Works, LLC, brings four decades of experience in funding and project management to the challenge of helping coastal communities identify climate-change vulnerabilities and develop grant-ready funding proposals. Following a career in NJ Transit’s real estate division, Allen worked for New York University’s Institute for Public Knowledge, reporting on the progress of seven HUD-funded post-Superstorm Sandy Rebuild by Design projects in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. In Maine, Allen assisted three coastal communities as they developed an interlocal proposal for funding from the Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation and the Future. He also is helping nine towns on Maine’s Penobscot Bay qualify for resilience funding from the Governor’s Office, Maine Department of Transportation, NOAA and FEMA and leverage their American Rescue Plan Act allocations for additional funding. Allen’s experience in facilitating discussion among public officials and policymakers includes conducting a webinar on the American Rescue Plan Act, a New Jersey Historic Trust seminar focused on protecting historic properties from inundation, and monthly planning meetings of town officials in Maine. Allen serves on the comprehensive plan committee in coastal Brooksville, Maine. In Hoboken, New Jersey, Allen served as the public library’s board president, overseeing dry-floodproofing of the city’s 1897 National Register library building with federal, state, county, city and nonprofit funds. He is a member of the New England Environmental Business Council. Allen’s newsletter, [Resilience Works Monthly](#), highlights funding opportunities and grant awards. He tweets regularly about innovative climate-change funding, @allenwkratz. Further information is available at the [Resilience Works, LLC website](#).

## Doug Marcy

Coastal Hazards Specialist  
 NOAA Office for Coastal Management  
 Charleston, SC



Douglas (Doug) C. Marcy is a Coastal Hazards Specialist at the NOAA Office for Coastal Management in Charleston, SC. He has been with the NOAA 19 years working on flooding and sea level rise geospatial mapping projects, storm surge assessments, and coastal hazards assessment projects contributing to more disaster resilient communities. Doug worked as a Hydraulic Engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District from 1999 to 2002, where he focused on flood control projects,

H&H modeling, flood inundation mapping, shoreline change analysis, and coastal engineering. From 1997 to 1999 Doug worked at the South Carolina Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management. Doug has a M.S. in marine geology (1997) from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and a B.S. in geology (1994) from the College of Charleston. Doug’s current interests include using geospatial technology combined with meteorological, hydrological, and coastal modeling (including sea level change) to enhance inundation forecasting, mapping, and risk assessment

## Dale Morris

Chief Resilience Officer  
City of Charleston  
Charleston, SC



In June 2021, Dale Morris was appointed as the city of Charleston’s Chief Resilience Officer. Mr. Morris comes to the city from The Water Institute of the Gulf, a technical research not-for-profit focused on flood risk mitigation and adaptation in Louisiana and the US Gulf Coast, where he served as the Director of Strategic Partnerships for three years.

Morris served as Legislative Director and Press Secretary in the U.S. Congress, focused on fiscal policy (tax, budget), trade, energy, entitlements, appropriations, and water issues. He moved to the Royal Netherlands Embassy as Congressional Liaison and provided policy support on trade, macroeconomic, productivity, energy, and communications issues. Post Hurricane Katrina (2005), Morris coordinated and directed the Embassy’s and Dutch Government’s recovery outreach to Louisiana, with a focus upon flood risk assessment, mitigation and communications, integrated water management for storm surge, tidal, stormwater and groundwater flooding. Morris engaged with federal, state and local government officials, stakeholders and the public on these issues and led the liaison on flood, water, climate and adaptation challenges with the US Congress and other U.S. states, including California, Florida, Texas, Virginia and New York.

Morris co-founded the Dutch Dialogues, focused upon urban water management challenges and opportunities in post Katrina New Orleans. Dutch Dialogues have been organized elsewhere in the U.S., leading to far-reaching planning, policy, and regulatory improvements in flood-prone and flood-recovering communities.

## Jack Smith

Environmental Attorney and Partner  
 Nelson Mullins  
 Charleston, SC



Newman Jackson “Jack” Smith is a partner of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough in its Charleston office. Smith received his juris doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1978 and is admitted in the state of South Carolina, the Fourth Circuit Court of Claims, the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina, and the U.S District Court for the District of Columbia. Previously, he worked for state and federal agencies and has experience in complex private and government litigation, real estate development and regulatory counseling.

Currently, Smith focuses his practice on environmental law and litigation, administrative law, land use law, and constitutional law. Smith’s current leadership roles include the Urban Land Institute representative of the NOAA Digital Coast Partnership, the Charleston Chamber representative on the Charleston Resilience Network, and immediate past president of the South Carolina Mitigation Association. He is an adjunct professor of environmental law at Charleston School of Law.

## Josh Sawislak

Distinguished Senior Fellow  
 Global Resilience Institute at Northeastern University  
 Boston, MA and Washington, D.C.



Josh is an internationally recognized expert on climate and disaster resilience and sustainable development and is the principal of Clio Strategies LLC. He advises governments, corporations, international organizations, and NGOs on building sustainable and resilient infrastructure and business opportunities in both the developed and developing world. His expertise includes the emerging efforts around assessing and pricing climate and disaster risk in financial portfolios and corporate facility assets as well as continuity planning and disaster risk reduction for communities and the private sector. He holds concurrent appointments as a distinguished senior fellow of the Global Resilience Institute (GRI) at Northeastern University, a professional affiliate of the Center Urban and Environmental Solutions (CUES) at Florida Atlantic University, and a Senior Advisor to the Honolulu-based Hawai’i Green Growth and the American Flood Coalition.

Mr. Sawislak served briefly in the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden as a senior advisor on executive actions and the COVID-19 response

during the first 120 days of the administration. He also served in the Biden-Harris presidential transition team working on agency review and climate and economic issues. Previously, in the Obama administration, he was the Associate Director for Climate Preparedness at the White House Council on Environmental Quality, where he developed U.S. federal policy on climate adaptation and resilience and worked with foreign governments and international organization on multilateral efforts. He led the development of the infrastructure recommendations for President Obama's Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force. In a previous federal role, Mr. Sawislak supported the development and execution of the National Continuity Policy as well as the federal response, recovery, and mitigation frameworks. He also served on the White House response coordination team for the H1N1 influenza pandemic in 2009-2010.

After leaving the White House in 2015, Mr. Sawislak served as the global director of resilience for the infrastructure services firm AECOM. In this role, he worked across the entire enterprise of AECOM's offerings to public and private sector clients in planning, design, construction, finance, operations, and development to help create and leverage resilient strategies to address issues such as sustainability, climate change, disaster preparedness, and enterprise risk management.

He was a speaker at the first US-China Climate Leaders' Summit in preparation for the global climate negotiations in Paris in 2015 (COP 21) and led a delegation to Paris and to COP 23 in Bonn, speaking at multiple sessions at both events. He spoke at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in 2016 and 2018, the UN Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, and gave lectures and participated in symposia in the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Oceania. He serves as a subject matter expert on infrastructure, community resilience, sustainable development and served as a member of the Transportation Research Board executive committee task force on resilience and sustainability and an advisor to the Rockefeller and Clinton Foundations.

Mr. Sawislak is an environmental and transportation planner and a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and earned a degree in political science from The George Washington University and completed a program in infrastructure development at the Harvard Kennedy School.

## Rives Taylor

Firmwide Design Resilience Co-Leader, Principal  
Gensler  
Houston, TX

Rives Taylor has more than 30 years' experience in institutional and commercial architecture with 25 years spent focusing on strategic planning, programming, and sustainable design, scaled from facility operations to campus and city planning. A Texas-practicing architect/educator, Rives directs Gensler's Firmwide Design Resilience Task Force and leads the Gensler Research Institute Resilience Center. He casts a wide net in elevating both the why and how of sustainable design, including students, faculty, professionals, public officials, and the general public. In over 30 years as an adjunct professor at the University of Houston and visiting professor at Rice University, Rives has influenced more than 6,000 students in his technical and high-performance design studios and seminars.

The approaches Rives developed for Gensler not only affect the firm's extensive practice but also influence clients' building decisions worldwide. He developed a firm-wide green practice primer called "The Four Tiers of Sustainability," led the inclusion of sustainable design in the firm's in-house education program, and in partnership with Architecture 2030 and the Design Futures Council, developed an "eco-charrette" process and developed a building performance metric that is now used in all of Gensler's projects. He is part of the editorial team that produces the annual "[Climate Action Through Design](#)." Rives has been a general member and occasional board member of the ULI Sustainable Development product council for over 8 years.

Locally he has been the inaugural director of the Houston ULI Chapter Building Healthy Places Council. He has engaged in two Professional Advisory Panels for [Broward County](#) and for the [Duwamish River \(Seattle\)](#) resilience focus. In 2015, Rives led Gensler's delegation to the Paris Climate Conference and led the editorial team for the "[Impact by Design](#)" publications annually. He is also part of the leadership team rolling out the Gensler Cities Climate Challenge (GC3). Rives developed design and construction standards for clients such as ExxonMobil, Walmart, ThyssenKrupp, and Toyota are now embedded in those clients' protocols and are followed worldwide.



## Julie Wormser

Deputy Director of Programs  
Mystic River Watershed Association  
Boston, MA

Julie Wormser is the deputy director of the Mystic River Watershed Association and founder of the Resilient Mystic Collaborative. Since its launch in September 2018, the RMC has grown to include 20 municipalities and has secured over \$2.5 million in funding to pursue regional climate preparedness projects. As Executive Director of The Boston Harbor Association, Wormser was instrumental in drawing attention to Boston's need to prepare for coastal flooding from extreme storms and sea level rise. She coauthored *Preparing for the Rising Tide* and *Designing With Water* and co-led the Boston Living with Water international design competition with the City of Boston and Boston Society of Architects. She has a BA in biology from Swarthmore College and an MPA from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

