



## **OPENING PLENARY – AGENDA AND DESCRIPTION**

April 2- 8:30-10:00AM Denver CO - Denver Marriott City Center - Colorado Ballroom F-

**8:30-8:40- Welcome to the Inaugural National Adaptation Forum Kick-off!** Amber Pairis, California Fish and Wildlife (Program Committee Chair) and Lara Hansen, EcoAdapt (Steering Committee Chair)

**8:40-8:50- Welcome to Denver:** Jerry Tinianow, Director of the Office of Sustainability, City of Denver

### **8:50-10:00- The MAD Group: Where Truth, Humor and Adaptation Intersect**

Join Margaret A. Davidson (MAD) and four compatriots for a provocative discussion on the challenges and opportunities that practitioners face when planning for and adapting to the effects climate change. For example -- How do we ensure that climate change is considered and integrated in comprehensive community planning? How can we implement adaptation strategies that complement sustainable design approaches, enhance ecosystem services, and don't break the bank? Are there approaches that can be used at critical times, such as post-Superstorm Sandy, to help communities rebuild in ways that will increase their resilience to future extreme events? And can we use climate adaptation as an opportunity to stimulate investments in local businesses and in smart technologies? Audience participation in the discussion will be encouraged!

### **PANEL MEMBERS:**

#### **Moderator – Margaret Davidson, Acting Director**

#### **National Ocean Service (NOS) Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management**

Margaret Davidson has been an active participant in coastal resource management issues since 1978, when she earned her juris doctorate in natural resources law from Louisiana State University. She later earned a master's degree in marine policy and resource economics from the University of Rhode Island.

Davidson served as special counsel and assistant attorney general for the Louisiana Department of Justice and was the executive director of the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium. She joined NOAA as the director of the NOAA Coastal Services Center in 1995. Davidson also served as the acting assistant administrator for NOAA's National Ocean Service from 2000 to 2002. She holds a faculty appointment at the University of Charleston and serves on the adjunct faculties of Clemson University and the University of South Carolina. Davidson has served on numerous local, state, and federal committees and has provided leadership for national professional societies. She has focused her professional work on environmentally sustainable aquaculture, mitigation of coastal hazards, and impacts of climate variability on coastal resources.

In April 2012, Davidson was appointed acting director of the NOS Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM). In this position, Davidson will play a leading role as OCRM and the Coastal Services Center plan to join forces and bring a greater and better-coordinated level of products and services to their constituents.

**Jim Geringer, Director**

**Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.**

Jim Geringer received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Kansas State University, then spent 10 years active and 12 years reserve service in the US Air Force working on unmanned space programs for both the Department of Defense and NASA. Projects included remote sensing satellites, the GPS system (NAVSTAR), Mars Viking Lander, the NASA HEAO and others.

Upon leaving active duty, he served as contract administrator for the construction of a 1700 megawatt coal-fired electric power generation plant near Wheatland Wyoming, then took up agricultural pursuits along with serving in the Wyoming Legislature from 1983 to 1994, including six years each in the House and the Senate. Geringer served two terms as Wyoming Governor, from 1995-2003, during which he focused on improving education through standards, accountability and technology, modernizing Wyoming's economic base to extensively include technology, changing how natural resource agencies among state, federal and local governments worked together, establishing community-based health and family services programs and implementing strategic planning and information systems. While in office, he chaired of the Western Governors' Association, the Education Commission of the States, was lead governor on energy policy and served on a variety of national and regional education and technology initiatives.

He was a member of the Committee on America's Climate Choices under the National Academies, served on the Mapping Sciences Committee under the National Research Council; current member of the Community Resilience Committee under Oak Ridge National Laboratories; NASA PNT Advisory Committee for the Global Positioning Satellite System; Western Interstate Energy Board ; Vice-Chair of the Association of Governing Boards for Colleges and Universities; Operation Public Education; the Board of Governors of the Park City Center for Public Policy; board member of NatureServe; co-chair of the Policy Consensus Initiative; and current Chair of the Board of Trustees, Western Governors University Public Sector Strategies to work with senior elected and corporate officials on how to use geospatial technology for place-based decisions in business and government.

**Joyce Coffee, Vice President - Group Head**

**Business + Social Purpose for Edelman**

Joyce Coffee, LEED AP, is Vice President - Group Head, Business + Social Purpose for Edelman. She has 20 years experience in environmental leadership, risk management, performance measurement and sustainability execution and is recognized for in depth knowledge of environmental best practices and for making climate science technology actionable. Her global work includes assignment in the Philippines, Vietnam, Egypt, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, and Taiwan. Her current client work includes providing senior counsel to Humana,

among the country's largest Medicare providers and a top health insurer, which applies the triple bottom line of healthy people, healthy planet, and healthy performance. She leads Edelman's CSR communications efforts with SC Johnson, Takeda and Kohl's. Current nonprofit clients include the Chicago Botanic Garden and Chicago Corporate Green.

Prior to joining Edelman, Ms. Coffee led implementation of the Chicago Climate Action Plan for the City of Chicago, driving efforts to decrease citywide greenhouse gas emissions 25% below 1990 levels by 2020. Ms. Coffee's past initiatives include leading industrial environmental management and clean tech projects, developing and implementing water conservation, water quality, and green infrastructure programs, and initiating and leading the Chicago Conservation Corps, training hundreds of Chicagoans to be environmental change-makers in their communities. Past employers include the US Agency for International Development, the World Bank, Farr Associates Architecture and Urban Design and Montgomery Watson Harza. She served two terms as a member of the international Alliance for Water Efficiency's board and is a Chicago Council on Foreign Relations Emerging Leader. She is the author of the Climate Adaptation Blog and is invited to speak about climate action at many national and international conferences, detailing how institutions can develop and implement robust climate plans.

Ms. Coffee received her Masters Degree in Urban Planning from Massachusetts Institute of Technology where she focused on innovations in municipal service delivery. She holds undergraduate degrees in Biology, Environmental Studies, and Asian Studies from Tufts University. She also attended the University of Hanoi, Vietnam under a Henry Luce Fund scholarship.

### **Adam Freed, Director**

#### **The Nature Conservancy's Global Securing Water Program**

Adam Freed is the Director of the Nature Conservancy's Global Securing Water Program, which is working to reduce the gap between clean, accessible, reliable water supply and demand in targeted water basins through investments in natural infrastructure and sound resource management, ensuring there is adequate water for people and nature. In this role, Adam negotiates partnerships to create innovative funding strategies for watershed management and develops and implements sustainable environmental, social and economic actions to enhance water security.

Adam previously served as the Deputy Director of New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability, where he oversaw the implementation of and process to update the city's long-term sustainability plan (PlaNYC) and advised the Mayor on sustainability and climate-related issues. In this role, Adam developed and managed the city's climate resilience program. Prior to working for the City, Adam was the Assistant Comptroller for New York City in the Office of the New York State Comptroller where he led the review of large-scale economic development projects and crafted corporate governance strategies for the State's \$150 billion state retirement fund. In addition to more than 14 years of environmentally-focused state and local government experience, Adam has worked on several city, state, and national political campaigns.

Adam received his master's in Urban Planning from NYU and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and a Mel King Community Fellow at MIT. He currently resides on the Lower East Side of New York City with his wife and two sons and is a Lecturer at Columbia University's Earth Institute.

**Susanne M. Torriente, Assistant City Manager  
City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida**

Susanne M. Torriente serves as Assistant City Manager at the City of Fort Lauderdale. She is a proven leader in large, high profile government initiatives in South Florida and is focused on streamlining government services and integrating sustainability into city operations. She oversees Structural Innovation, Sustainable Development, Transportation & Mobility, Public Works, and Parks & Recreation.

Susanne has 22 years of local government experience and previously served as Assistant County Manager and Sustainability Director at Miami-Dade County where she led development of the County's first sustainability plan, *GreenPrint*, and the first climate action plan. Susanne has been a member of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact staff steering committee since inception in 2009, serving as Chair of the Transportation Work Group and one of the lead authors of the Regional Climate Action Plan. She was recently selected for the 2012 ICMA Sustainable Communities Fellowship and is a member of the State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Community Resiliency Focus Group.

**Lara J. Hansen, Ph.D., Chief Scientist, and Executive Director  
EcoAdapt**

Lara thinks climate change is everybody's problem and she wishes someone would bother to do something about it. Her desire for action led her to co-create EcoAdapt with a team of similarly inclined folks in 2008. She serves this fine organization as Executive Director and Chief Scientist. She is co-author and editor of one of the earliest texts on the issue of natural system adaptation to climate change, *Buying Time: A User's Manual for Building Resistance and Resilience to Climate Change in Natural Systems*, as well as co-author of one of the newest books on adaptation, *Climate Savvy: Adapting Conservation and Resource Management to a Changing World*. The team that created these books created an engaged stakeholder process (first known as Climate Camp; now known as Awareness to Action Workshops) to help resource managers create adaptation strategies applicable to their work. Lara has served on the unfairly maligned, vitally important Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, is a Switzer Environmental Fellow and a United States Environmental Protection Agency Bronze Medalist. Prior to creating EcoAdapt, she was the chief climate change scientist for the World Wildlife Fund, creating their international Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Program, from 2001-2008, and a Research Ecologist with the Environmental Protection Agency from 1998-2001. She earned her Ph.D. at the University of California, Davis in Ecology and her B.A. in Biology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Because she is an optimist, she assumes we will get our acts together on climate change--who would want the alternative.