

# New England Conservation Finance Roundtable February 24, 2021

## MEET THE SPEAKERS



**Maggie Church - Vice President, Healthy and Resilient Communities, Conservation Law Foundation**

Maggie earned her master's degree in City Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she was the recipient of the Wallace Floyd Award for City Design and Development and the MIT/DUSP Excellence in Public Service Award. She is a 1994 Truman Scholar and holds a master's degree in Urban Design from the Edinburgh College of Art and a BA in Architecture from Yale University. Maggie was honored to receive a Conservation Hero award from the National Park Service in 2015 for service to Groundwork USA, where she served as Board Chair from 2010 to 2015.



**Bobby Cochran - Partner, Community Resilience & Innovation, Willamette Partnership**

Bobby is Willamette Partnership's partner for community resilience and innovation. He is also a co-founder of Shift Health Accelerator. From both platforms, Bobby uses collaborative approaches to "re-wire" systems to achieve a sustainable future-forming and managing networks, crafting policy, and moving money from dumb stuff to better stuff. Better stuff is/means economic inclusion that rests on thriving ecosystems and healthy people.



**Hadley Couraud - Conservation Coordinator, Sebago Clean Waters**

Hadley is the Conservation Coordinator for Sebago Clean Waters, providing conservation planning, mapping, and management. Previously in hyena behavior research, she now works in land and water conservation and environmental justice. Her work is devoted to weaving ecosystem and equity approaches in the field of conservation. She serves on the Board of the Maine Environmental Education Association. Hadley studied Biology (B.A.) and Peace Studies at Goucher College in Maryland.



**Lori Coyner - Medicaid Director, Oregon Health Authority**

Lori Coyner oversees Oregon's Medicaid program covering Oregonians through a coordinated care system led by 15 Coordinated Care Organizations. She returned to the role in February 2019 after a year consulting with Health Management Associates as the Managing Principal of the Portland office. During her prior tenure as OR Medicaid Director, she played a pivotal role in securing federal renewal of Oregon's Medicaid 1115 waiver that includes innovative strategies to incent investment in social determinants of health, value-based payment methods, and continues Oregon's health system transformation that includes Oregon's quality incentive payment program.



**Shanté Hanks - Deputy Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Housing**

Shanté Hanks was appointed Deputy Commissioner to the Department of Housing by Governor Lamont in 2019 because of her commitment and passion for providing stable homes for vulnerable populations. She is committed to providing safe and quality affordable housing throughout Connecticut. Ms. Hanks is responsible for National Disaster Resiliency programs, including Resilient Bridgeport and municipal infrastructure projects, as well as continuing to ensure Conn



**Ashley Allen Jones – CEO, i2 Capital**

Ashley is a business and investment executive leading environmental finance innovation across water and biodiversity. For the past eight years, Ashley has pioneered the nascent conservation finance industry as Chief Executive Officer of i2 Capital, a leading impact investment firm she founded to expand private investment in conservation and supply chain sustainability. The company's initiatives include the Revolving Water Fund in the Mid-Atlantic ([www.revolvingwaterfund.com](http://www.revolvingwaterfund.com)) and the Upper Green River Conservancy in the Rocky Mountains ([uppergreenriver.com](http://uppergreenriver.com)).



**David Kane - Executive Director of Administration, Treasurer, Portland Water District**

David Kane is Executive Director of Administration and Treasurer of Maine's Portland Water District. He has been employed by the Portland Water District since 1990. Before working with the water district, he was employed by Peat Marwick, CPA and Citicorp as an auditor and accounting manager. In 1984, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy at Bentley College. David is currently a member of New Water Works Association Board and Maine Water Utilities Finance Officer's Group.



**Kavita Kapur Macleod- Principal, KKM Environmental Consulting**

Kavita Kapur Macleod has over a decade of environmental consulting experience integrating economics, science, and policy to generate solutions for conservation, climate change, and environmental health. Kavita has managed technical and policy analysis for a variety of clients, including the Highstead Foundation, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, the Sand County Foundation, the World Bank, the Jane Goodall Foundation, the US EPA, and the US FWS. Kavita is also currently the Conservation & Environmental Markets Fellow at the Environmental Policy Innovation Center (EPIC). Kavita holds a BA in International Relations from Tufts University and an MPP from Harvard University.



**Spencer Meyer, Senior Conservationist, Highstead**

Spencer leads Highstead's conservation finance program by collaborating with partners throughout New England and the U.S. to develop strategies to advance land conservation, climate mitigation, and watershed protection. As an interdisciplinary scientist with expertise in landscape ecology, forest management, and conservation finance, Spencer's work blends the conservation and economics of the natural resources on which we all depend. Spencer is a co-founder of Sebago Clean Waters and an active leader in the Wildlands & Woodlands Initiative and the Conservation Finance Network.



**Josh Parrish – Director, American Forest Carbon Initiative**

Josh Parrish is Director of the The Nature Conservancy's American Forest Carbon Initiative (AFCI). The AFCI provides forest carbon tools and incentives to forest landowners across the United States. Josh focuses on two primary strategies for expanding the Initiative across the United States. The first is working across The Nature Conservancy's business units to engage and enroll landowners in the Program by providing them with long-term innovative conservation solutions. The second strategy is developing and expanding the forest carbon credit sales pipeline by building relationships with corporations and interested purchasers.



**Sacha Spector - Program Director for the Environment, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**

Dr. Sacha Spector is Program Director for the Environment at the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, where he oversees all environmental and conservation grantmaking. Previously he has served as director of conservation science at Scenic Hudson, manager of the invertebrate conservation program at the American Museum of Natural History and was the Terrestrial Invertebrate Red List Authority for the IUCN Species Survival Commission. Author or co-author of over 30 research papers, books, and articles on conservation practices, he earned his PhD in ecology from the University of Connecticut and his BS in environmental biology from Yale.



**Sean Thackurdeen - Program Associate for the Environment, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**

Sean Thackurdeen is a biocultural conservationist and grantmaker working to uplift nature, people, and their wellbeing. Prior to joining the foundation, Sean spent seven years supporting a community-led conservation initiative to document and preserve the biodiversity, environmental culture, and languages of Vanuatu, an archipelago in the South Pacific. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in anthropology and environmental studies from Swarthmore College.



**Karen Watts - Manager, Right Now Climate Fund, Amazon**

Karen Watts manages Amazon's Right Now Climate Fund, a \$100 million commitment to support nature-based climate solutions as part of Amazon's commitment to The Climate Pledge to be net zero carbon by 2040. Amazon is actively reducing emissions within its operations through innovations and investments in renewable energy, electric vehicles, sustainable materials, efficient processes, and more. At the same time, Amazon's Right Now Climate Fund recognizes that to achieve IPCC pathways for mitigating the worst effects of climate change, we also need to go outside of our value chain and support nature's ability to reduce and remove carbon.



**Leigh Whelpton - Program Director, The Conservation Finance Network**

Since 2012, Leigh Whelpton has led CFN's efforts to advance land and resource conservation by increasing the use of innovative and effective funding and financing strategies. By expanding capacity, confidence, and connections among a growing network of public, private, and nonprofit professionals, CFN helps people find the capital they need to advance the pace and scale of their conservation efforts. Prior to this role, Leigh managed conservation initiatives and professional education for the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia. Leigh holds an M.E.Sc. from the Yale School of Environment and a B.S. from the University of California at Berkeley.