



2020 Annual Meeting

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Sarah Brace,

**Executive Coordinator, British Columbia/Pacific States Oil Spill Task Force & Principal,
Veda Environmental**

Sarah has a background in natural resources and has spent over 20 years managing and facilitating environmental and urban planning projects. For the past two decades, she has worked with resource managers, planners, engineers and scientists to engage and inform the public on complex urban infrastructure projects addressing sediment cleanup, water quality, oil spill prevention and response, and stormwater management. As a community engagement specialist, she seeks to engage diverse stakeholder groups in meaningful collaboration processes that lead to lasting solutions with broad buy-in. As a facilitator, she helps conduct effective meetings, workshops and public events, where actionable outcomes are the goal and productive engagement is key. Sarah holds a M.S. Degree in Forest Ecosystem Science from the University of Washington, and a B.S. degree in Biology from Smith College.

Thomas Cullen

Administrator, Office of Spill Prevention & Response, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Thomas Cullen was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown as the Administrator of the California Office of Spill Prevention & Response (OSPR) in June 2012. Captain Cullen directs a team of scientists, environmental specialists, game wardens, and support personnel in protecting and preserving 3,427 miles of shoreline and 7,734 square miles of State waters from oil and other deleterious substances. In 2014, Administrator Cullen oversaw the statutory expansion of his office's jurisdiction and responsibilities to protect all state surface waters from the effects of oil spills, not just the waters in the marine zone. This was the largest growth in the 24-year history of OSPR and has further cemented its place as one of the nation's most progressive and effective oil spill programs.

Prior to his appointment, Captain Cullen served in the United States Coast Guard for 31 years. From 2008 to 2010 he served as Deputy Commander of Coast Guard Sector San Francisco, CA, where he performed a wide-range of federal authorities in the San Francisco Bay region including Captain of the Port, Federal Maritime Security Coordinator, Federal On-Scene Coordinator, Officer-in-Charge of Maritime Inspections, and Search & Rescue Mission Coordinator in our nation's busiest and most diverse coastal region. Captain Cullen received a Bachelor of Science in Ocean Engineering from the Coast Guard Academy and a Master of Science in Industrial Administration from Purdue University. He is also a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) and a licensed Airline Transport Pilot (ATP). A native of West Hartford, Connecticut, and currently living in Novato California, Administrator Cullen is married to the former Mary Marmaud of St. Petersburg, Florida. They have five children: Matthew, Caitlin, Brian, Therese, and Kelly.



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Mike Day

Emergency Preparedness and Response Operations Manager, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company

Mike Day is the Emergency Preparedness and Response Operations Manager for Alyeska Pipeline Service Company and currently oversees tanker escorts and spill response for Prince William Sound and the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. He joined Alyeska in 1990 and has held a wide range of positions in Pipeline and Marine Terminal Operations and Maintenance. Mike was born and raised in Valdez, Alaska and his first work was commercial fishing with his family. His children and relatives still earn a living from the waters of Alaska.

Lydia Emer

Administrator for Land Quality, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Lydia Emer is the Administrator for Land Quality programs with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. She has served as an administrator since 2014. The division focuses on leadership and direction for coordinated short and long-range planning for programs and services provided by Cleanup and Emergency Response, Materials Management, and Hazardous Waste and Tanks to support our agency's mission to be a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water. Lydia received a M.S. in Public Administration and Development from the University of Birmingham (2009), United Kingdom.

Michael Greenburg

Acting Emergency Response Program Lead, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Michael Greenburg is the acting program lead for DEQ's Emergency Response Program and the State On-Scene coordinator for DEQ's Northwest Region. Master's Degree in Environmental Science. 28 years of experience in emergency response and environmental cleanup.

Nhi Irwin

Statewide Resources Section Manager, WA Department of Ecology

Nhi Irwin has been with Washington State Department of Ecology for 14 years and has been involved in the development of legislation, rule writing and implementation of many of the oil spill regulations in Washington State. She is involved in local, state and cross border issues as a member of the Northwest Area Committee and Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force. Nhi currently supervises areas of work in enforcement, investigations, research and data management, performance measurement and training. Nhi's education background includes degrees in political science and economics.



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Dale Jensen

Program Manager, Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Program, WA Department of Ecology

Dale was appointed Program Manager for the Washington State Department of Ecology, Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Program in August 2001. The Spills Program is a statewide program responsible for activities that include: spill prevention, preparedness, response, and natural resource damage assessment. There are approximately 81 FTEs and 27 after-hours responders located at four regional offices, two field offices, and headquarters, with a two-year budget of about \$45 million. Dale is a commissioner with the Washington State Board of Pilotage Commission. Dale also spent nine years as manager in the Department of Ecology's Air Quality and Toxics Cleanup programs. Prior to Ecology, Dale spent three years implementing the Governor's Efficiency Commission Study. Many of the results from that study are still in place today. Prior to state service, Dale was a small business owner/operator in retail, agriculture, and environmental consulting. Dale grew up in Montana and now lives in Olympia with his wife Laura. They have three children and two grandchildren. Dale has a degree in Business Administration from the University of Montana. He enjoys spending time outdoors, biking, hiking, and skiing with friends and family. Dale places importance on establishing and maintaining good stakeholder relationships, and a high priority on partnerships to protect the environment. He believes if we hold our regulated community to a high standard, we need to hold ourselves to that same standard. Accountability and performance are essential to our shared success.

Keith Kawaoka,

Deputy Director for Environmental Health, Hawaii Department of Health

Keith Kawaoka, D.Env., who has been with the Hawaii Department of Health for more than 15 years, has been appointed Deputy Director of Environmental Health. Gov. David Ige confirmed his appointment in April, 2015. Dr. Kawaoka has extensive environmental health expertise. He brings to the position more than 35 years of experience in the environmental protection field from both the public sector and private industry. Most recently, he has been the program manager with the Department of Health's Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response (HEER) Office. In that role, Kawaoka was instrumental in evaluating risks of hazardous materials to protect the health of the people of Hawaii and our fragile environment. He will direct the Department's Environmental Health Administration, which includes the Environmental Management Division, Environmental Health Services Division, and State Laboratories Division, and the HEER Office. Prior to joining the Hawaii Department of Health, he held various senior level positions in both national and local environmental consulting firms. Kawaoka holds a master's degree in public and environmental health and a doctorate in environmental science and engineering, both from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA).

Conor Keeney

Emergency Manager, Marathon Petroleum

Conor currently works in the Emergency Preparedness Group for Marathon Petroleum. He leads a small team responsible for oil spill training and exercises for facilities in the Western half of the United States. He also helps out as a board member of Clean Rivers Cooperative and Islands' Oil Spill Association.



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Denise Koch

Director of Spill Prevention and Response, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Denise Koch became the Director of Spill Prevention and Response (SPAR) for the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in December 2018. Before her appointment to head SPAR, Ms. Koch served as the DEC Director of the Division of Air Quality for almost four years. She has spent almost 13 years in DEC and 5 years as an environmental consultant in Alaska. During her work at DEC, Ms. Koch has had leadership roles on a wide variety of projects ranging from finding a sustainable funding source for SPAR, developing PFAS policy in Alaska, working on a plan to clean up fine particulate matter (PM2.5) air pollution in the Fairbanks North Star Borough, obtaining EPA approval to implement the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) wastewater permit program, and establishing DEC's cruise ship program and Ocean Ranger Program. Ms. Koch has a Master's of Science in Public Health focused in Environmental Health from the University of Washington and a Bachelor of Arts in environmental science from the University of Virginia.

Kelly Malinoski

Director, Emergency Management, Trans Mountain

Kelly Malinoski has worked in the oil and gas industry in Canada for the past 20 years. Kelly is currently Director, Emergency Management with Trans Mountain Corporation, where she is responsible for emergency preparedness and response for the Trans Mountain Pipeline and associated facilities.

Laurel Nash

Assistant Deputy Minister, BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Laurel joined the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change as the Assistant Deputy Minister role in June 2019. Laurel has worked in government for over 20 years in the Natural Resources Sector, holding such roles as the Director of Petroleum Lands and the Chief Gold Commissioner at the Ministry of Energy and Mines. Laurel grew up in the Northwest Territories, before coming to B.C., where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Geography from the University of Victoria. She currently lives in Victoria with her husband and two children.

Linda Pilkey-Jarvis

Spills Preparedness Section Manager, WA Dept. of Ecology

Linda Pilkey-Jarvis manages the oil spill preparedness program for the Washington State Department of Ecology, overseeing the approval of contingency plans, the state's evaluation of industry drills and the regional planning between Washington, Idaho and Oregon. She is the co-author of *Useless Arithmetic*, a critical review of applied mathematical modeling and *Retreat from a Rising Sea*. Linda is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, spent 8 years in the United States Coast Guard working in the marine safety field. She is a past recipient of the Washington State Governor's distinguished leadership award.



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Chris Thixton

Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor, Drills and Exercises Unit, Office of Spill Prevention and Response, California Dept of Fish and Wildlife

Chris Thixton began his state career in 2001 and joined the Department of Fish and Wildlife – Office of Spill Prevention and Response (DFW-OSPR) in 2003 as an Environmental Scientist with the Southern Field Response Team. In 2018 Chris became the Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor for the statewide Drills & Exercise Unit within the DFW-OSPR Preparedness Branch. Prior to joining state service Chris worked for 11 years as an environmental consultant with Southern California environmental engineering firms. Chris has a bachelor's degree with a background in geomorphology & geology. As a Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor, Chris oversees the day to day operations within the statewide Drills & Exercise Unit. Chris develops policies and operational procedures for drills & exercises, provides technical expertise for drills & spill responses, and participates in and assists with spill contingency planning and drills. Chris has responded to many high-profile spills to include: Cosco-Busan, Deepwater Horizon, and the Refugio Incident.