Speaker Biographies

(updated August 23, 2016)

NOAA's Hydrographic Services Review Panel Federal Advisory Committee
Great Lakes Public Meeting, Cleveland, Ohio, August 30 – September 1, 2016

Table Of Contents page 1

Ms. Jackie Adams, Environmental Scientist
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Great Lakes National Program Office, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ms. Jackie Adams is an Environmental Scientist for the U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO). She has served in various roles in the GLNPO office since 2004. Currently, Jackie is the Lead for Focus Area 3 (Nonpoint Source Pollution Impacts on Nearshore Health) of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Her role as the Focus Area Lead is to work with federal agencies and state and local partners to reduce nutrient and agricultural runoff impacts on the nearshore areas of the Great Lakes. Jackie serves as a member of the Annex 10 Workgroup of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, and is the co-chair of the Ecosystem Indicators and Reporting Task Team under this Annex. Additionally, Jackie participates in water quality surveys on the Great Lakes aboard the EPA's R/V Lake Guardian. Jackie received her B.S. in chemistry and biology from Ripon College. In her spare time, Jackie enjoys traveling and spending time with her husband and children and teaching them about the Great Lakes and how to be good environmental stewards.

Mr. John T. Allis, PE, Chief, Great Lakes Hydraulics and Hydrology Office, US Army Corps of Engineers - Detroit District

John Allis is the Chief of the Great Lakes Hydraulics and Hydrology Office for the Detroit District of the US Army Corps of Engineers. His office is responsible for supporting the International Joint Commission through water level regulation activities on Lake Superior, forecasting of Great Lakes water levels, and flow measurements in the connecting channels of the Great Lakes.

Mr. Andy Armstrong, Co-Director
Joint Hydrographic Center, University of New Hampshire

Andy Armstong is the Co-Director of the JHC and a retired officer of NOAA, assigned to the Center as a civilian NOAA employee. Capt. Armstrong specialized in hydrographic surveying and served on several NOAA hydrographic ships, including the NOAA Ship *Whiting* where he was Commanding Officer and Chief Hydrographer. Before coming to the JHC, he was the Chief of NOAA's Hydrographic Surveys Division, directing the agency's hydrographic survey activities. He has a B.S. in Geology from Tulane University and an M.S. in Technical Management from Johns Hopkins University. Capt. Armstrong oversees the hydrographic and ocean mapping education and training program at UNH and coordinates the Center's cooperative research with NOAA.

Captain Paul D.J. Arnett, Chief, Prevention Division
9th Coast Guard District for the Great Lakes and Saint Lawrence Seaway, United States Coast Guard

Captain Arnett serves as the Chief, Prevention Division for U.S. Coast Guard Ninth District, leading the Prevention mission for the Great Lakes region. The Prevention mission on the Lakes includes: Domestic Ice Breaking—jointly coordinated with the Canadian Coast Guard, Aids to Navigation, Waterways Management, Marine Safety, Commercial Vessel Inspections, Port Security, Marine Casualty Investigations, Bridges Management, Maritime Facility Safety and Security, Coast Guard Auxiliary, and Recreational Boating Safety. His prior assignments include: Acting Deputy Sector Commander for Sector Delaware Bay and Director Auxiliary, Fifth Coast Guard District Northern Region, based out of Philadelphia. Prior to Philadelphia he was the Deputy Sector Commander and Alternate Captain of the Port for Sector Boston, after having fleeted up from the Chief of the Prevention Department. Additional tours included Detached Duty with the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Infrastructure Protection, Activities/Sector New York, MSO-Group Philadelphia, Coast Guard Headquarters, Marine Inspection Office New York, and Support Center New Orleans.

Captain Arnett entered the Coast Guard through Officer Candidate School in 1987. While at the Marine Inspection Office, he made overseas deployments including Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. In 1993-97 he left the Coast Guard to work in the maritime industry as the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 was being implemented, serving as a Qualified Individual and Spill Manager for spill events, helping draft the initial Vessel Response Plans for tank vessels and conducted vessel compliance audits and training. He returned to Coast Guard active duty on a direct commission to Lieutenant at Headquarters' Marine Safety Office of Compliance. Captain Arnett's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, four Commendation Medals with "O" device, the 9-11 Medal, Achievement Medal, Commandant's Letter of Commendation, Southwest Asia Service Medal and others. CAPT Arnett received a bachelors degree at Salisbury State College, a Masters in Environmental Protection and Safety Management from St. Joseph's University, and a Masters in Security Studies from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA.

Mr. Mike Aslaksen, Chief, Remote Sensing Division, National Geodetic Survey, National Ocean Service, NOAA

Mike Aslaksen is the Chief of the Remote Sensing Division within the National Geodetic Survey of NOAA. Mike has been with NOAA more than 20 years and has served in a variety of operational, technical, and policy positions ranging from performing field surveys supporting Nautical and Aeronautical Charting to serving as the Chief of Staff for NOAA's Ocean Service. Mike's education includes a Bachelor of Science from Old Dominion University and a Master of Science from The Johns Hopkins University.

Ms. Helen Brohl, Director, Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS), U.S. Department of Transportation

Helen A. Brohl was appointed as the first Executive Director of the U.S. Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS) in July 2006 by then-USDOT Secretary Norman Mineta. Maritime transportation oversight and interest within the U.S. Federal government is spread throughout many authorities, departments and budget line items. Ms. Brohl manages the CMTS partnership, created under Presidential Directive in 2012, that joins over 25 Federal agencies to address our Nation's waterways, ports and intermodal connections. Working with senior political, military and civilian leaders in the Federal government, Ms. Brohl directed the development and Cabinet-level approval of the first-ever National Strategy for the Marine Transportation System to improve the MTS for capacity, safety and security, environmental stewardship; resiliency and financing. During her tenure, the CMTS has engaged in a number of dynamic issues including Federal infrastructure financing and investment; system performance measures; navigation technology integration and coordination; and integration of marine transportation issues into the President's Arctic and Ocean Policies, National Export and Build America initiatives. She led development of the CMTS Strategic Action Plan for Research and Development in the MTS; response to the National Ocean Policy; National Strategy for E-Navigation; U.S. Arctic MTS Priorities Report; Federal MTS Funding Handbook; compendium of Federal maritime energy programs; and the recent Ten-Year Projection of Maritime Activity in the U.S. Arctic report to the White House. From March to September 2012, Ms. Brohl was detailed to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA), to facilitate the development of the USMMA Strategic Plan 2012-2017, issued in 2012. For the ten years, she was the Executive Director of the U.S. Great Lakes Shipping Association working with NOAA and Congress to build the Great Lakes Water Level Observation Network, a lakes-wide system of real-time water and atmospheric observations provided directly to the mariner. She was the President of the National Association of Maritime Organizations to develop the maritime operational regulations under the Marine Transportation Security Action of 2002.

Ms. Ashley Chappell, Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping Coordinator (IOCM), Office of Coast Survey, NOS, NOAA

Ashley Chappell earned a B.A. in Geography from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1991, and a Master's degree in Geography and Cartographic Sciences from George Mason University in 1997. After an exciting stint at National Geographic, she joined the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as an aeronautical chart cartographer in 1992. Her childhood summers spent at Virginia Beach and a love of the sea soon necessitated a move to nautical charting for NOAA's Office of Coast Survey in 1995, where she produced charts of Alaska, the Pacific and Great Lakes waters. In 2000, she moved to policy, strategic planning, and budget formulation to support the worthy mission of safe and efficient marine transportation. Since then, Ashley has focused in large part on the emerging threats and opportunities from a warming Arctic, and the national need for better marine transportation system infrastructure and foundational geospatial data to support good decision-making in the coastal zone. She currently serves as NOAA's Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping Coordinator. Ashley lives in Alexandria, Virginia with her husband and three children, where she advocates for elementary STEM education in her spare time.

Mr. Thomas R. Crane, Deputy Director, Great Lakes Commission

Mr. Thomas R. (Tom) Crane joined the Commission staff in 1986 and has more than 30 years of Great Lakes research/policy experience. Since 2008, Crane has held the position of Deputy Director of the Commission. As such, he is responsible for a variety of administrative, financial and programmatic functions within the organization. Crane also served as Interim Executive Director (2005-2006), Resource Management Program Manager (1990-2004; 2006-2008) and Natural Resources Program Specialist (1986-1990). Crane has program development, staff oversight and management responsibilities for numerous distinct projects and issue areas including: Water Resources Management, Science Vessel Coordination, Sediment Management and Dredging. Crane is the lead staff person coordination activities on two important regional programs focused on sediment management and dredging: The Great Lakes Tributary Modeling Program and the Great Lakes Dredging Team. Before joining the Commission, Crane’s previous work included positions with the Great Lakes Basin Commission, NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory and several years of nongovernmental experience in Virginia and Missouri where Crane directed two citizen environmental groups. Crane holds a Bachelor's degree in Natural

Resources and a Master's degree in Water Resources Management from the University of Michigan.

Mr. Rich Edwing, Director, Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services, NOS, NOAA

Mr. Richard Edwing is the director of NOAA's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS), the nation's authoritative source for accurate, reliable and timely water-level and current measurements. In his role, he oversees and continues to improve this 24-hour a day operation to provide mariners, coastal managers, and many other users with real-time data on ocean conditions along America's 95,000-mile coastline. Edwing's career with NOAA spans three decades with much of that time spent advancing NOAA's navigation services mission to provide the nation with up-to-date ocean, weather, mapping and positioning data and tools for safe transits to and from U.S. ports. He started with NOAA in 1976 in the Marine Boundary Program, a partnership between NOAA and coastal states to establish tidal data such as base elevations in sensitive wetland areas vulnerable to urban growth. He later advanced through various positions in the field and at NOAA headquarters, including several years as division chief of the National Ocean Service's policy, planning and analysis division, where he shaped NOAA's priorities for ocean issues, as well as identified budget needs to advance and modernize ocean science for the twenty-first century. Graduating in 1976 from George Washington University, Edwing earned a Bachelor of Science degree in oceanography, and later completed graduate level work in civil engineering at the University of Maryland. For two hundred years, CO-OPS and its predecessor agencies have provided the critical oceanographic data needed to protect life, property, and the marine environment. The Center manages NOAA's Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System, the National Water Level Program, and National Current Observation Program—major national systems critical to keeping America's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes safe, healthy and productive.

Mr. Josh Feldmann, Chief, Operations Branch, Buffalo District, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Josh Feldmann is a civil engineer and Chief of the Buffalo District Operations Branch. He serves as the Technical Services Division advocate for the Operations and Maintenance program and leads team members in the operation and maintenance of navigation, flood risk management, environmental stewardship, and recreation projects on the lower Great Lakes. The district's area of responsibility encompasses 33,000 square miles and extends from Toledo, Ohio northeast to Massena, New York. Major areas of responsibility include the maintenance of 33 miles of navigation channels at thirty five deep and shallow draft harbors, contract and hired labor repair of 100 miles of breakwaters and piers as well as the operation and maintenance of the Black Rock navigation lock, Mount Morris flood risk management dam, and Mount Morris Visitor Information Center. He is responsible for managing a hired labor fleet and three survey crews. Upon graduating from Syracuse University, Josh was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, served four years active duty, and left active service as a captain. Prior to serving as the Chief of Operations, Josh worked as a project manager and planning management team leader in the Project Management Section and Planning Branch, respectively, as well as a civil engineer in the Operations and Technical Services Division. He served with the Corps of Engineers in Iraq, assisting the U.S. Agency for International Development as a project engineer. He was deployed to Iraq as a U.S. Army reservist, serving as a Civil Affairs team leader in Babil and Anbar provinces. Prior to the Corps, Josh worked as a project manager for a general contractor and as a civil design engineer for a consulting firm. He has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a Master of Engineering degree from North Carolina State University. He is a registered professional engineer in New York State and a certified Project Management Professional. He resides in Amherst, NY with his wife.

Captain George P. Haynes, Vice President, Lakes Pilots Association

Captain George Haynes has been a pilot with Lakes Pilots Association in Port Huron, MI for 20 years. He is a 1986 graduate of the State University of New York Maritime College in Bronx, NY where he earned a BS degree in Business Management. In 1995 he completed a BS degree in Finance at Northern Michigan University. His career started with Great Lakes Towing Company in 1986 working harbor tugs in the ports of Cleveland and Buffalo. In 1989, he started work part time on Great Lakes freighters with Interlake Steamship Company and became a permanent officer from 1992 to 1996. He was also the first captain of the new Ohio DNR Research Vessel *Grandon* conducting fisheries research in Lake Erie in 1990. In 1991 he sailed on the ocean hauling military cargo during the first Persian Gulf War and also on a surveillance vessel in the Norwegian Sea. He has operated passenger vessels in Cleveland and Lansing, Michigan and also delivered various passenger vessels and a Staten Island Ferry to and from east coast ports and the Great Lakes.

Mr. David Holst, Chief of Staff, National Ocean Service, NOAA

David Holst is the Chief of Staff of NOAA's National Ocean Service. He is responsible for coordinating the day-to-day operations of the National Ocean Service, the nation's ocean and coastal agency. The National Ocean Service (NOS) has about 1,700 staff located at more than 50 places around the country and focuses on coastal preparedness, response, recovery and resiliency; integrating science and services into actionable information; and place-based management. During his 15 years at NOAA, Mr. Holst has also worked in the National Weather Service and the NOS's Office of Response and Restoration. Mr. Holst was a Presidential Management Fellow at the Federal Emergency Management Agency prior to NOAA. He has a bachelor's in biology from St. Olaf College and a master's in environmental policy and planning from Virginia Tech.

Ms. Deborah Lee, Director, Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab

Ms. Deborah Lee is the director of NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL). With a staff of nearly 100 federal, cooperative institute and contract employees and visiting scientists, NOAA-GLERL and its partners conduct integrated scientific research on the Great Lakes and coastal ecosystems; develop and transition products and services; and share knowledge and information to advance NOAA's goals of science, service and stewardship. As director of GLERL, and a member of the federal Senior Executive Service, Ms. Lee serves as the laboratory's leader, providing guidance through conceptual development, implementation, and management of integrated, interdisciplinary scientific research and communications programs. In addition to her role as director of GLERL, Ms. Lee serves as NOAA's Regional Team Lead for the Great Lakes, facilitating collaboration across a network of more than 800 NOAA employees and partners representing the agency's diverse capabilities across the region. To her position at GLERL, Ms. Lee brings nearly 30 years of professional experience in water resources research and management at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and NOAA. She worked at GLERL from 1991 to 1998, at NOAA's National Weather Service Ohio River Forecast Center from 1998 to 2001, and was Chief of Water Management for the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Ms. Lee is a licensed professional engineer, certified professional hydrologist, and incoming President of the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers. She has received multiple awards, including three Superior Civilian Service Awards, certificates of appreciation from the International Joint Commission and the Mississippi River Commission, International Joint Commission Award of Merit for Professional Contribution, and the Boggess Award for Best Paper from the American Water Resources Association. Ms. Lee holds a bachelor's and master's degrees in hydraulics from The Ohio State University and completed post-graduate studies at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Larry Mayer, Director, Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping, and Co-Director, Joint Hydrographic Center, University of New Hampshire

Larry Mayer is a Professor and the Director of the School of Marine Science and Ocean Engineering and The Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping at the University of New Hampshire. He graduated magna cum laude with an Honors degree in Geology from the University of Rhode Island in 1973 and received a Ph.D. from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in Marine Geophysics in 1979. At Scripps, he worked with the Marine Physical Laboratory's Deep-Tow Geophysical package, applying sophisticated acoustic sensor to problems of deep-sea mapping and the history of climate. After being selected as an astronaut candidate finalist for NASA's first class of mission specialists, Larry had a Post-Doc at the School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island, working on the early development of the Chirp Sonar and problems of deep-sea sediment transport and paleoceanography. In 1982, he became an Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Oceanography at Dalhousie University and in 1991 moved to the University of New Brunswick as the NSERC Industrial Research Chair in Ocean Mapping. In 2000 he was the founding director of the Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping at the University of New Hampshire and the co-director of the NOAA/UNH Joint Hydrographic Center. He participated in more than 90 cruises (70 months at sea!), was chief/co-chief scientist of many expeditions such as the Ocean Drilling Program and eight mapping expeditions in ice covered regions of the high Arctic. He served/chaired many international panels and has many publications in marine geology and geophysics. He sits on the President’s Panel on Ocean Exploration, National Science Foundation’s Advisory Committee for Geosciences, chaired a National Academy of Science Committee on national needs for coastal mapping and charting. He was co-chair of NOAA’s Ocean Exploration Advisory Working Group, Vice-Chair of the Consortium of Ocean Leadership’s Board of Trustees, and now Chairs the National Academies of Science’s Oceans Studies Board, member of the State Department’s Extended Continental Shelf Task Force, Navy’s SCICEX Advisory Committee and President Obama appointed him to the Arctic Research Commission. His current research is sonar imaging and remote characterization of the seafloor, advanced applications of 3-D visualization to ocean mapping problems and applications of mapping to Law of the Sea issues, particularly in the Arctic.

Mr. Glen Nekvasil, Vice President, Lake Carriers Association

Glen G. Nekvasil is Vice President of Lake Carriers' Association. He is responsible for LCA's Annual Report, news releases, speeches, testimony and statistics, and oversees LCA's Navigation, Vessel Personnel & Safety, and Security Committees. He joined LCA in 1983. Mr. Nekvasil is also Secretary of Great Lakes Maritime Task Force, the largest labor/management coalition ever assembled to promote Great Lakes shipping. Mr. Nekvasil is a graduate of Westminster College in Pennsylvania, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science.

Mr. Mike Piskur, Program Manager
Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers

Mike Piskur serves as Program Manager with the Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers, a non-partisan partnership of eight US States and two Canadian Provinces. He manages the Conference's work on maritime transportation, aquatic invasive species, and water use data. Mike is spearheading the development and implementation of the first-ever regional maritime transportation system strategy. He also coordinates the Conference's public communications and government and industry relations.

Rear Admiral Shep Smith, Director, Office of Coast Survey, NOS

President Barack Obama has approved the promotion of Shepard Smith, from captain to rear admiral (lower half), a prerequisite for Smith to become director of NOAA's Office of Coast Survey, after his selection by Department of Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker. Smith's appointment to director will be effective on August 26, 2016. Rear Admiral (select) Smith has served with NOAA for 23 years, during which time he has been deeply involved in advancing the state-of-the-art in hydrography and nautical cartography. His 11 years as a field hydrographer continue to this day, as he currently serves as the commanding officer of NOAA Ship *Thomas Jefferson*. He previously served as the chief of Coast Survey's Marine Chart Division, managing the privatization of paper chart printing and distribution. In addition to his three tours on *Thomas Jefferson* (twice as commanding officer), Smith also served on NOAA Ship *Rainier*, surveying in Alaska, and as the officer-in-charge of Research Vessel *Bay Hydrographer*. He served on the interagency response teams for the search and recovery of TWA flight 800, EgyptAir flight 990, and the private plane piloted by John F. Kennedy, Jr. He commanded *Thomas Jefferson* during her six-week response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. For his shore assignments, Smith served as the chief of Coast Survey's Atlantic Hydrographic Branch, as Coast Survey's deputy hydrographer, and chief of the Marine Chart Division. Smith served as the deputy director of the Office of Response and Restoration, staff at the U.S. Coast Guard LANTAREA headquarters, and as a senior advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Environmental Observation and Prediction. He served on the U.S. delegation to the International Hydrographic Organization's (IHO) Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee and chaired the IHO Data Quality Working Group. *Thomas Jefferson*, under his command, was awarded a Commerce Gold Medal for heroism, and individually he has two Commerce Bronze Medals, four NOAA Corps Commendation Medals, five NOAA Corps Special Achievement Medals, the Society of American Military Engineers' Colbert Medal, the Association of Commissioned Officers' Engineering Award, three U.S. Coast Guard awards and one National Intelligence awards for interagency operations, six NOAA Unit Citations, and the NOAA Corps Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. Smith is a native of Strong, Maine, attended Deep Springs College, Cornell University, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in 1993. He has a Master's of Science in Ocean Engineering from the University of New Hampshire, and completed the IHO Category "A" program.

Ms. Betty Sutton, Administrator Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, U.S. Department of Transportation

Ms. Betty Sutton is the tenth Administrator of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) which is the U.S. federal government agency that partners with the Canadian St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation to operate and maintain the locks and vessel traffic control areas in the St. Lawrence Seaway. In addition, the SLSDC performs trade development functions designed to enhance Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System utilization to generate jobs and economic activity in the Region. Under her leadership, the SLSDC is providing direct support and facilitation to increase commercial trade on the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System, including the implementation of the waterway's first regularly scheduled international liner service to a U.S. Great Lakes port in decades, leading to economic growth in the Great Lakes Region. To enhance this effort, Ms. Sutton established a Great Lakes Regional Outreach Initiative to provide focused economic development services to the Great Lakes Region. She oversees a multi-million dollar Seaway infrastructure modernization and renewal program and the implementation of cutting-edge technology in the system in order to provide enhanced safety and operational efficiency. As an original member of the Great Lakes Seaway Partnership program, she is at the forefront of efforts to broaden stakeholder involvement to inform and educate the public about maritime transportation and the economic importance of the Great Lakes Region, North America's 'Opportunity Belt'. She identifies a top priority as the promotion of environmentally responsible maritime commerce. Ms. Sutton served as a Member of Congress for three terms from 2007 through 2012 representing Ohio's 13th Congressional district, sponsored and passed the effective and popular CARS Act, which was responsible for creating and saving 60,000 U.S. auto industry jobs, was elected President of her Congressional class, earned a seat on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and co-chaired the Congressional Jobs Task Force. She worked as a labor attorney, Ohio state representative, Summit County Council, and the Barberton City Council. She has a bachelor's degree in political science from Kent State University in 1985, and a law degree at the University of Akron School of Law in 1990.
