



# Sustainable Water Infrastructure Workshop

Marion Berry Renewable Energy Center  
 Mid-South Community College  
 2000 West Broadway Ave | West Memphis, AR 72301  
 May 8 – 9, 2013

## Event Summary and Evaluation Responses

Event Summary .....	2
Participants .....	4
Evaluation Responses – Concurrent Sessions .....	8
Evaluation Responses – General .....	10

# Event Summary

## Sustainable Water Infrastructure Workshop

Mid-South Community College, West Memphis, AR  
May 8 – 9, 2013

**Description:** This workshop was designed to build the capacity of rural communities to sustainably and equitably manage water resources and water infrastructure assets. The event featured presentations by planners, engineers, scientists, and policy experts on a range of topics related to water affordability, equity, and sustainability. Sustainable Communities Initiative grantees shared about their projects and how they are integrating water sustainability issues. Participants were also given opportunities for networking, peer sharing, and informal conversations.

**Target Audience:** The primary target audience was East Arkansas Planning and Development District, Southern Bancorp Community Partners, and their respective grant coalitions and partners. The secondary audience was recipients of grants and technical assistance awards from EPA and/or the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, in the Gulf/South region defined broadly to encompass HUD Regions 4 and 6, excluding North Carolina and New Mexico and adding Kansas and Missouri. 32 Sustainable Communities Initiative grantees and 47 EPA grantees were invited. Figure 1, right, shows the locations of these invitees.

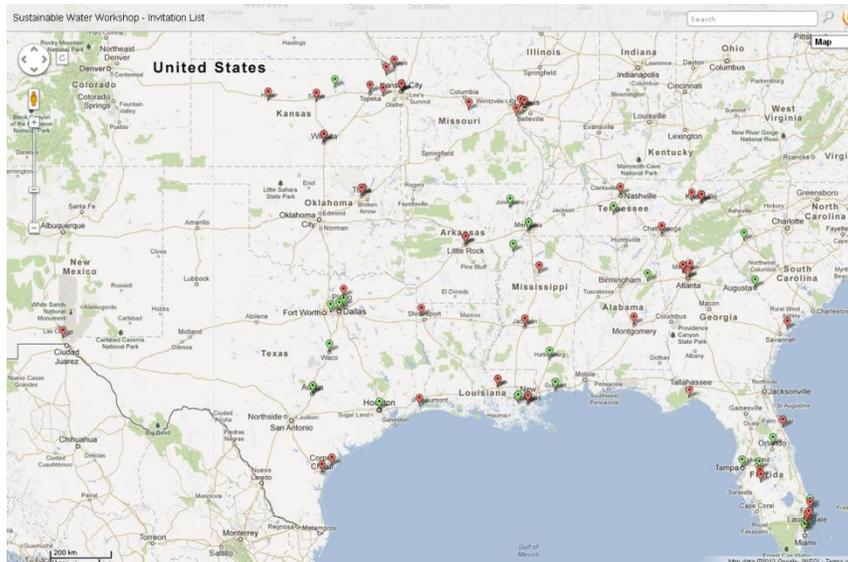
**Hosts:** The event was hosted by the Water Infrastructure Capacity Building Team (EFCN) through the HUD/EPA Capacity Building for Sustainable Communities Program, with support from the Equity Capacity Building Team (PolicyLink) and two Sustainable Communities Regional Planning grantees: East Arkansas Planning and Development District and Southern Bancorp Community Partners. Funding was provided by US Department of Housing and Urban Development and US Environmental Protection Agency.

**Event Material:** Presentation slides and the agenda packet are archived on the Sustainable Communities Learning Network at <http://sclearningnetwork.org/document/sustainable-water-infrastructure-workshop-materials>.

**Agenda:** For a complete agenda with session descriptions and presenter information, please visit <http://sclearningnetwork.org/document/water-workshop-materials-agenda-packet-participant-list>.

### Day 1

- 8:30 Registration and Refreshments
- 9:00 Welcoming Remarks
- 9:30 General Session – Affordability and Sustainability Framing Discussion  
*Heather Himmelberger, Southwest Environmental Finance Center and Kalima Rose, PolicyLink*
- 10:45 Concurrent Sessions – Planning



**Figure 1. Sustainable Communities Initiative and EPA grant award recipients invited to attend the workshop.** For map detail, visit <http://batchgeo.com/map/d7cb1fd587904b2a39a2e8f4f10674bf>

1. Collaborative Planning for Water – *Todd Fugitt, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission and Lauren Heberle, Environmental Finance Center, University of Louisville*
  2. Hazard Mitigation Planning: From Idea to Implementation – *Andrea Pompei Lacy and Josh Human, Center for Hazards Research and Policy Development, University of Louisville*
  3. Water System Collaborations – *Heather Himmelberger, Southwest Environmental Finance Center*
- 11:45 Lunch and General Session – Sustainability in the Delta  
 Defining Sustainability in East Arkansas – *Melissa Rivers, East Arkansas Planning and Development District*  
 Mid-South Regional Greenprint and Sustainability Plan – *John Zeanah, Shelby County Government*  
 Coahoma County Delta Bridge Project – *Lois Erwin and Nancy Sullivan, Southern Bancorp Community Partners*
- 1:00 Concurrent Sessions – Water Supply
1. Water Mapping and Ground Water Availability – *Todd Fugitt, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission*
  2. Water Supply in the Delta
    - a. Water Supplies in the Mississippi Delta for Urban, Wildlife and Agricultural Needs: Problems, Challenges and Opportunities – *Dean Pennington, Yazoo Mississippi Delta Joint Water Management District*
    - b. Modern On-Farm Tools for Managing and Conserving Our Agricultural Water Supply – *John McKee, Circle S Irrigation / EnviroSolutions*
  3. Safeguarding Your Water Supply – *Heather Himmelberger, Southwest Environmental Finance Center and Kristel Sheesley, New England Environmental Finance Center*
- 2:00 Break
- 2:15 General Session – Financially Sustaining Your Infrastructure  
*Kalima Rose, PolicyLink and Heather Himmelberger, Southwest Environmental Finance Center*
- 3:30 Q&A Roundtable
- 4:00 Adjourn

**Day 2**

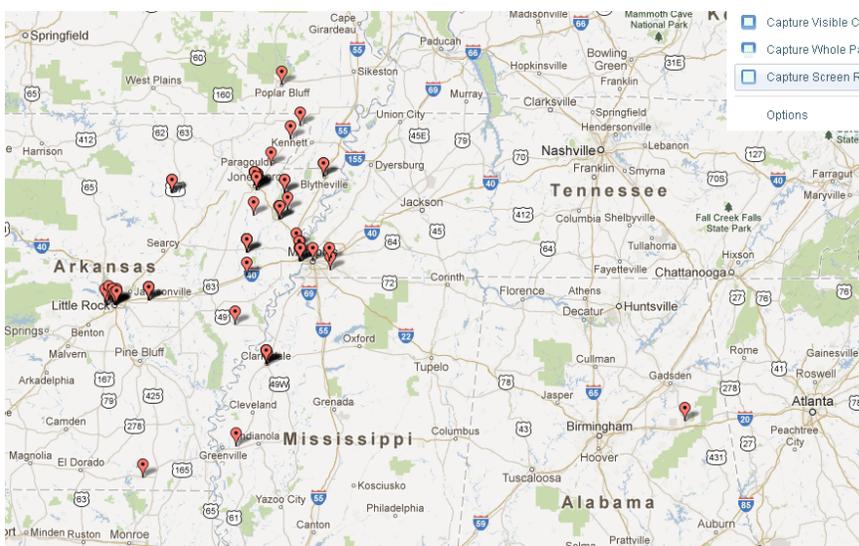
- 8:00 Registration and Refreshments
- 8:30 General Session – Protecting Your Water Infrastructure Investment Panel Discussion  
*Moderator: Lauren Heberle, Panelists: Heather Himmelberger, Kalima Rose, Andrea Pompei, Josh Human*
- 9:15 Concurrent Sessions – Trends in Water Quality and Monitoring
1. Drinking Water – *Heather Himmelberger, Southwest Environmental Finance Center*
  2. Clean Water – *Jim Wise, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality*
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15 Concurrent Sessions – Making It Happen
1. Building Support for Your Plan – *Kalima Rose and Lauren Heberle*
  2. Ask the Engineers Roundtable – *Moderator: Mark Bennett*
  3. Meet the Funders Roundtable – *Moderator: Ross Allen*
- 11:30 General Session - What's Next?
- 12:00 Adjourn

# Participants

71 people attended the event, 19 of which attended the first day only and 11 of which attended the second day only.

Participants represented a wide range of disciplines and sectors. The audience included local and regional planners, engineers, water operators, students, consultants, town mayors, county judges, community development officers, representatives of private foundations and nonprofit organizations, and others.

Table 1, below, lists workshop participants and Table 2 includes hosts and organizers. Figure 2, right, shows the locations of workshop participants, excluding Capacity Building Team members.



**Figure 2. Water workshop attendees.** For map detail, visit <http://www.batchgeo.com/map/0c809048f499f013b397a40cac6265d3>

**Table 1. Workshop participants.**

Name	Title	Organization	Email	Phone	Day 1?	Day 2?
Jerome Alford	Engineer	Bond Consulting Engineers	bondengineering@hotmail.com	870-739-2228	Y	Y
Terry Bare	Partner	Haywood, Kenward, Bare & Associates, Inc.	tbare@hkbinc.com	870-932-2019		Y
Frank Bateman	Outreach Coordinator	Office of U.S. Senator Mark Pryor	frank_bateman@pryor.senate.gov	501-324-6336	Y	Y
Mark Bennett	Chief, Water Development	Arkansas Natural Resources Commission	mark.bennett@arkansas.gov	501-682-3978	Y	Y
Jeremy Bevill	Engineer	Haywood, Kenward, Bare & Associates, Inc.	jbevill@hkbinc.com	870-932-2019		Y
Jonny Boatman	Councilmember	City of Caraway, AR	cityofcaraway1@centurytel.net	870-482-3996	Y	Y
Randy Boudrey	Engineering Student	University of Arkansas	rboudrey@yahoo.com	870-702-7735	Y	Y
Eddie Brawley	President	Brawley Consulting Engineers, Inc.	ebrawley@sbcglocal.net	870-735-8148	Y	
Larry Bryant	Mayor	City of Forrest City	cityfcar@ipa.net	870-633-1315	Y	Y
Robin Caler	Principal Planner	East Alabama Planning Commission	robin.caler@earpdc.org	256-237-6741	Y	Y
Mac Compton	Engineer	Mehlburger Brawley	Mcompton@mb-engine.com	501-375-5331	Y	Y
Terry Couch	Water Superintendent	City of Caraway, AR	cityofcaraway1@centurytel.net	870-482-3996	Y	Y

Gregory Dale	Area Specialist	USDA Rural Development	gregory.dale@ar.usda.gov	870-633-3055 x 123	Y	Y
Nathan Davis		Office of U.S. Senator John Boozman	nathan_davis@boozman.senate.gov	870-268-6925	Y	Y
Emanuel Edmond	Manager	Delta Regional Authority	eedmond@dra.gov	662-624-8600		Y
Glen Fenter	President	Mid-South Community College		870-733-6722	Y	
Dave Fenter	Chairman	Arkansas Water and Wastewater Advisory Committee	Dave.fenter@arkansas.gov	501-682-0543		Y
Zackary Fort	GIS Coordinator	CAPDD	zack.fort@capdd.org	501-676-2722	Y	Y
David Freeman	Mayor	City of Rector, AR	cityofrector@gmail.com	870-595-3035	Y	
Todd Fugitt	Geology Supervisor	Arkansas Natural Resources Commission	Todd.fugitt@arkansas.gov	501-682-3983	Y	
Charles Glover	President	AR Association of Conservation Districts	glover@ritterag.com	870-974-1346	Y	Y
Travis Guntharp	Engineer	Paragould Light Water & Cable	tguntharp@paragould.com	870-239-7700		Y
Greg Hammett	Manager	Treatment Plant Blytheville Waterworks	blythevillewater@att.net	870-727-7771		Y
Mitzi Hargan	Director	White River Planning and Development District	mitzi@wrpdd.org	870-793-5233	Y	Y
Charles (can't read rest of name) Harris	Counselor	Southern Bancorp Community Partners	charlestuen!harris@southernpartners.org	662-624-5776	Y	Y
Wayne Hinds	Manager	District Drainage District 7	dd7@rittermail.com	870-930-4442		Y
Katherine Holmstrom	Community Developer	Arkansas Economic Development Commission	kholmstrom@arkansasedc.com	501-682-7376	Y	
Gary Howell	Judge	Clay County, AR	ccjudge@centurytel.net	870-933-4500	Y	Y
Travena Jefferse	Development Specialist	Community Resource Group	travena.jefferse@crg.org	870-329-5136	Y	Y
Basil Julian	Director	State CDBG Arkansas Economic Development Commission	bjulian@arkansasEDC.com	501-682-7392	Y	Y
Richard King	Operations Management Specialist	Rural Community Assistance Program	rking@crg.org		Y	Y
Linsley Kinkade	Program Officer	Winrock International	lkinkade@winrock.org	501-920-1796	Y	
David Kirchner	Loan Specialist	USDA Rural Development Program	david.kirchner@ar.usda.gov	870-301-3272		Y
Stephen Lagasse	Director	USDA Rural Development	Stephen.lagasse@ar.usda.gov	501-301-3265		Y
Charles Landrum	Grants Coordinator	Office of Congressman Rick Crawford	charles.landrum@mail.house.gov	870-203-0540	Y	

Keith Looney	Water Distribution Supervisor	City of Wynne, AR Water Utilities	wynnewater@yahoo.com	870-238-2751	Y	
Paul Luker	Director of Planning and Development	City of West Memphis, AR	pluker@citywm.com	870-732-7520	Y	
Chris Masin	Senior Engineer	Shelby County Government	chris.masin@shelbycountytn.gov	901-222-7744	Y	
Harvey Matheny	Project Manager	Kimley-Horn and Associates	Harvey.matheny@kimley-horn.com	901-374-9109	Y	
Diane McAdoo	Plan Director	Marion Chamber of Commerce	diane@marionarkansas.org	870-739-6041	Y	
Carrie McIntosh	Project Administrator	White River Planning and Development District	carrie@wrpdd.org	870-793-5233	Y	Y
John McKee		Envirosolutions, Inc.	johnmckee@circlesirrigation.com	662-902-7253	Y	Y
Amanda Merrill	Program Manager	Central Arkansas Planning & Development District	amanda.merrill@capdd.org	501-676-2721	Y	Y
Charles Nix	Judge	Poinsett County, AR	PoinsettCountyJudge@pcsii.com		Y	
Don O'Neal	General Manager	City of Wynne, AR Water Utilities	wynnewater@yahoo.com	870-238-2751	Y	
Dean Pennington	Executive Director	Yazoo Mississippi Delta Joint Water Management District	dean@ymd.org	662-686-7712	Y	Y
Gary Phillips	General Manager	Blytheville Waterworks	gphillips@blytheville.com	870-763-4449		Y
Leigh Pool	Program Manager	Central Arkansas Planning & Development	leigh.pool@capdd.org	501-676-2721	Y	Y
Woody Ray	NE Area President	AR Association of Conservation Districts	woody.ray@ritterag.com	870-227-1042	Y	
Billy Robertson	Water Supt. Director of Business Development	City of Lepanto, AR	trlwyatt@yahoo.com	870-475-2415	Y	Y
Bill Robison		Smith & Co. Engineers	billr@shsmithco.com	573-785-9621	Y	
Gene Sullivan	President / CEO	Sullivan & Associates	bayou.meto@yahoo.com	501-676-7420		Y
Woody Wheelless	Judge	Crittenden County, AR	judgewheelless@crittco.com	901-331-0166	Y	Y
James Wise	Ecologist Coordinator	Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality	wise@adeq.state.ar.us	501-682-0663	Y	Y
Carol Witt	Mayor	Town of Jericho, AR	Mayorwitt@msd3.org		Y	
John Zeanah	Program Manager	Memphis and Shelby County Office of Sustainability	john.zeanah@memphistn.gov	901-576-7167	Y	

**Table 2. Workshop hosts and organizers.**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Day 1?</b>	<b>Day 2?</b>
Pam Alexander	reNEW East Arkansas Project Director	East Arkansas Planning and Development District	pam@eapdd.com	870-932-3957	Y	
Heather Himmelberger	Director	Southwest Environmental Finance Center	heatherh@unm.edu	505-681-7437	Y	Y
Josh Human	Director	Center for Hazards Research & Policy Development	josh.human@louisville.edu	502-852-8922	Y	Y
Andrea Pompei Lacy	Project Manager	Center for Hazards Research & Policy Development	andrea.pompei@louisville.edu	502-852-7952	Y	Y
Melissa Rivers	Executive Director	East Arkansas Planning and Development District	mrivers@eapdd.com	870-932-3957	Y	Y
Kalima Rose	Senior Director	PolicyLink Center for Infrastructure Equity	kalima@policylink.org	510-663-2333 x 305	Y	Y
Kristel Sheesley	Program Manager	New England Environmental Finance Center	ksheesley@usmaine.edu	207-780-5864	Y	Y
Nancy Sullivan	Senior Grant Writer	Southern Bancorp Community Partners	nancy.sullivan@southernpartners.org	501-850-8971	Y	Y
Brian Thompson	reNEW East Arkansas Project Manager	East Arkansas Planning and Development District	bthompson@eapdd.com	870-208-4878	Y	Y
Cathianne Watkins	Grant Writer	Southern Bancorp Community Partners	cathianne.watkins@southernpartners.org	501-850-8988	Y	Y

## Evaluation Responses – Concurrent Sessions

Session	Did you find the session helpful?					What was the most valuable aspect of the session?	Do you have any suggestions to improve the session?
	Very helpful	Somewhat helpful	No opinion/ N/A	Not very helpful	Not helpful		
Collaborative Planning for Water	7	1				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Todd Fugitt - excellent!</li> <li>• Interaction</li> <li>• I found everything interesting.</li> <li>• Better understanding of the Arkansas Water Plan and its need and importance</li> <li>• Good ideas!</li> <li>• Great examples!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall great session</li> </ul>
Hazard Mitigation Planning	3	3		1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Info on plan contents</li> <li>• GIS</li> <li>• Good overall view. How the pieces of mitigation planning fit together</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A little too much info for time allotted</li> <li>• Opportunities for participation from group</li> <li>• I was hoping the session would be more relevant to my situation. It seemed to be a summary of what I already knew. Might have been helpful to others</li> <li>• Not all information followed Arkansas &amp; FEMA Region VI regulations (some match requirements must be partial cas match 12.5%). Should have told all locals to contact county judges to be included in planning process.</li> </ul>
Water System Collaborations	4	1				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using real life examples</li> <li>• Getting new ideas for collaboration</li> </ul>	
Water Mapping and Groundwater Availability	5	1				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning aquifer levels</li> <li>• Water levels in the various locations</li> <li>• The knowledge of the speaker</li> <li>• Good graphs</li> </ul>	
Water Supply in the Delta	6	1				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural water practices</li> <li>• H2O availability</li> <li>• Overall picture of water use/regulation in Delta region. Introduction of mechanisms to do so. Introduction to tracking ag irrigation</li> <li>• The distinction between agricultural aquifers &amp; drinking water aquifers; innovative ways to capture &amp; reuse surface water. Gave me an understanding of groundwater vs. surface water.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More time</li> <li>• Loved it</li> <li>• No</li> <li>• None</li> <li>• Speakers needed more time to go through their presentations</li> </ul>

Safeguarding Your Water Supply	2	1					
Trends: Drinking Water	6	1					
Trends: Clean Water	5	1				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand how it really works - got new ideas</li> <li>• Good charts</li> <li>• Overall picture of DEQ in Arkansas</li> <li>• He was a very good presenter; very good information pertaining to our area</li> <li>• Everything; I literally didn't know anything about CWA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
Meet the Funders	2					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How the process works</li> <li>• Hearing from DRA</li> <li>• Seeing / hearing all together</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction remarks by the panel were too lengthy; more input opportunities needed to be afforded to those who listened to the presenters</li> </ul>
Ask the Engineers	2	1				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good roundtable panel - one of the best sessions!</li> </ul>	
Session not identified	2					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good lecture &amp; slideshow</li> </ul>	

## Evaluation Responses – General

We only received a handful of evaluations at the event. I'm awaiting more responses via the online survey.

### Overall, how satisfied were you with the event?

Very satisfied      Satisfied      Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied      Unsatisfied      Very unsatisfied

### Please indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know / no opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I received practical guidance that applies to my water infrastructure project.					
I had sufficient opportunity to network with other participants.					
I had sufficient opportunity to ask questions of presenters.					
The event met my expectations.					
I would attend another event at this venue.					
The event was about the right length.					

### How helpful were the following general sessions?

Session	Very helpful	Somewhat helpful	No opinion / not applicable	Not very helpful	Not helpful
Day 1 – Affordability and Sustainability					
Day 1 – Sustainability in the Delta: Defining Sustainability in East Arkansas					
Day 1 – Sustainability in the Delta: Mid-South Regional Greenprint & Sustainability Plan					
Day 1 – Sustainability in the Delta: Coahoma County Delta Bridge Project					
Day 1 – Financially Sustaining Your Infrastructure					
Day 2 – Protecting Your Water Infrastructure Investment					
Day 2 – Making It Happen					

### Please indicate how much knowledge you gained in the following areas.

A lot      Some      Don't know / no opinion      A little      None

Financially sustaining infrastructure assets					
New ways to think about affordability issues					
Protecting water quality					
Planning for water					
Preparing for / responding to hazards and natural disasters					
Water supply availability					
Ensuring access and affordability for underserved communities					
Rate setting					
Job creation and workforce development as it relates to water infrastructure					
Infrastructure equity and water justice					
Project implementation					

**What did you find the most valuable about this workshop?**

**What suggestions do you have for improving the workshop?**

**What issues were not adequately covered?**

**What additional technical support would be most helpful to you?**

(Please be specific. Include your contact information so we can follow up with you. If you wish for the rest of this survey to remain anonymous, you may send your response to this question to [ksheesley@usm.maine.edu](mailto:ksheesley@usm.maine.edu)).