

## Biographies

**Len Madalon** is Executive Vice President of EDM and has designed and worked on stormwater projects within the City of St Louis, St Louis County and St Charles County. He has managed studies and design projects for numerous municipalities including stormwater needs assessments, stormwater master planning, CRS assistance, creek bank stabilization, bio-stabilization, flood studies, bridge and culvert replacements, storm and sanitary sewer lines and pump station projects. Len has applied for and obtained Letters of Map Change from FEMA and Nationwide as well as Individual Permits from the Corps of Engineers. His experience includes work on hydraulic and hydrologic modeling, fluvial geomorphic analysis, GIS, specifications, quantities, construction cost estimating, easements, plans for construction, floodproofing, and rain garden design.

**Korie Otto, CFM**, a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) and the State Floodplain Management Officer who has over two (2) years of experience in this field. She started her college career at Central Michigan University on a volleyball scholarship. Due to injuries Korie came back to Missouri in 2021 and became a dispatcher in Kansas City. When the opportunity came about at the end of 2022 Korie applied to the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) to be an Administrative Assistant in the Floodplain Management Section. After a year of holding this position, she was able to apply to become a full-time employee. In September of 2023 she was hired as the Floodplain Management Officer. She obtained her Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM) certification in June of 2024. She continues to grow and educate herself to better improve her knowledge in floodplain management to be able to serve the communities of Missouri to the best of her ability.

**Lauren Imhoff, CFM** graduated from State Fair Community College with an Associate of Arts degree in December of 2014. While attending college she was a volunteer firefighter for the Boone County Fire Protection District and worked as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT-B) for several years for the different direction with her career and pursue emergency management. In September of 2022 Lauren was hired with the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency as a Floodplain Management Officer. Shortly after passing her Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM) exam in September of 2023 she was promoted to Deputy State NFIP Coordinator. Lauren has been employed with the State Emergency Management Agency for over two years and continues to educate herself on the rules and regulations of floodplain management to better help her cohorts throughout the State of Missouri.

**Dr. Robert Holmes** is Principal of Holmes Engineering, LLC. Prior to establishing his engineering consulting practice, he was an engineer and hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey for over 34 years including serving as the Director of the USGS Illinois Water Science Center from 1999 to 2008, USGS National Flood Specialist from 2008 to 2020, and Chief of the Branch of Hydrodynamics from 2017 to 2021. Since 2008, he has also held a position as an Adjunct Professor and Research Associate in the Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering at Missouri University of Science and Technology where he teaches both undergraduate and graduate level courses in water resources, river mechanics, and fluid dynamics. Dr. Holmes has BS and MS degrees in Civil Engineering from the Missouri S&T and a PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Illinois. Dr. Holmes is a licensed professional engineer in Missouri, a Board-certified Water Resources Engineer, a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), a Fellow of the Environmental and Water Resources Institute (EWRI), Past President of the Mid-Missouri Section of ASCE, and former Chair of the St. Louis Section of ASCE-EWR. Dr. Holmes has research interests and authored numerous papers in the areas of flood hydrology, surface-water hydrologic processes, novel streamflow data collection techniques, water availability, river mechanics, open-channel hydraulics, and sediment transport.

**Paul H. Rydlund Jr., PLS, CFM USGS - Water Mission Area – Office of Planning and Programming**  
National Hydrologic Monitoring Program. Paul works at USGS headquarters in the office planning and programming as the National Hydrologic Monitoring Program manager. He has held multiple positions in the USGS with a background managing USGS data and hydrology/hydraulics programs, authoring

many publications and products in these disciplines. Paul serves in a couple of peripheral roles for the USGS as the geospatial advisor ..and Federal Liaison Officer among USGS emergency management response and mitigation.

**Bryan A. Christopherson** is a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) and Licensed Insurance Agent (LIA) specializing in flood protection, mitigation, and flood insurance. With extensive experience in the Midwest region of the United States, Bryan is dedicated to advancing flood resilience and ensuring compliance with federal and local regulations. His expertise encompasses floodplain management, flood insurance policies, and strategies for reducing flood risk through mitigation and protection solutions.

**Brad Schaefermeyer** has acquired over 37 years working within the Hydrometeorological industry working internationally and domestically for several major manufacturers of monitoring equipment. Brad understands firsthand challenges of field work in the dead of winter to the extreme summer heat. Brad has worked closely and provided all levels of government organizations to assist them in learning valuable insights for practical monitoring efforts. In addition, Brad has trained hundreds of individuals to aid them in learning best practice methods of measurements, data collection tools, processing and backend software applications. Brad holds an Electronic Engineering Degree from DeVry University and began working with OTT HydroMet in 2022 as a territory manager for the midwestern states of Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, North and South Dakota as well as outlying states of Hawaii and Alaska

**Mr. Martin Koch** has worked as a Supervisory Emergency Management Specialist (Mitigation) with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 7 Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch. He plays a leading role in National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) business processes such as ordinance reviews, community enrollments and reinstatements, annexation processing, and technical assistance with potential violations. Martin also serves as the Branch's point of contact for Endangered Species Act (ESA) coordination. During the summer of 2024, he deployed to Oregon in support of FEMA Region 10's NFIP-ESA integration efforts.

Martin joined FEMA Region 7 in May 2022 and has served in his current role since October 2023. Previously he worked as a Floodplain Management Specialist with the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment as well as an NFIP Specialist with the Kansas Department of Agriculture – Division of Water Resources. Martin has more than seven years of experience working with subject areas including floodplain management and regulation, flood insurance, flood hazard mapping, training course delivery, and the Community Rating System.

He holds a Master's degree in Geography from the University of Kansas and also received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Oklahoma with a major in Environmental Sustainability and a minor in Geographic Information Science. Martin has authored articles published in the Association of State Floodplain Managers' News and Views newsletter, the Kansas Association of Counties' County Comment, and Kansas State University's Online Journal of Rural Research and Policy. Martin is accredited as a Certified Floodplain Manager by the Association of State Floodplain Managers, an Associate in National Flood Insurance by the American Institute for Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters, an American Institute Certified Planner by the American Planning Association, and a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Associate by the U.S. Green Building Council.

**Jonathan Maas, CEM**, is an Emergency Management Specialist in FEMA's Floodplain Management & Insurance Branch, having joined the team in December 2023. He plays a crucial role in supporting Region 7 states and local communities through the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS), the Community Rating System (CRS), and Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage (SI/SD) programs. Before joining FEMA, Mr. Maas served as the Director of Emergency Management at McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas. There, he led the development and execution of the emergency management plans, real world

response and recovery operations and exercises, and Emergency Operations Center management. With over 20 years of experience in the U.S. Air Force and FEMA, he brings a wealth of expertise in emergency management and holds certifications as a Certified Emergency Manager, along with degrees in Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

**Megan Richardson, PE, CFM** has 6 years of experience in water resources. She has experience in floodplain mapping, urban flooding, and hydraulic and hydrologic modeling.

**Karen McHugh**, a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) and the Missouri State National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Coordinator, has over 30 years of experience in public service. She served as Chief County Assessment Officer in Hancock County, Illinois, where she was also the County Floodplain Administrator. She planned, organized, and carried out all floodplain management activities during the historic 1993 flooding event. Karen moved to Jefferson City, Missouri and in the fall of 2007, she was asked by the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) to apply her floodplain management skills on Missouri's behalf as the agency's Floodplain Management Officer, a position she held for 9-years. In the fall of 2016, she was promoted to SEMA's Floodplain Management Section Manager and State NFIP Coordinator. Karen has a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with a degree in Management. In addition, Karen's professional credentials include serving on the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) Board of Directors as Treasurer, Secretary and Region VII Director. Karen is a member of FEMA's Advanced State Partners Group.

**Jennifer Rachal** graduated from Southeastern Louisiana University in 2012 with a Master's Degree in Mental Health Counseling. Jennifer has worked in Floodplain Management for 10 years. Five of those years were at the Louisiana State NFIP office and she has been with ISO for five years as a CRS Specialist. She is a Certified Floodplain Manager through ASFPM. When CRS is not taking up her time, she is a taxi driver for her three kids in South Louisiana. **Reach me at [Jennifer.Rachal@verisk.com](mailto:Jennifer.Rachal@verisk.com) and 985.705.8897**

**Allen Chestnut, P.E., CFM** is currently the Dam Safety Program Manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District where he manages the Dam Safety Program for 18 large federal multipurpose reservoirs. Mr. Chestnut is a registered Professional Engineer (P.E.) in Kansas since 2015, as well as a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) since 2018. He has worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Kansas City since 2007, receiving his Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering in 2009 (Kansas State University), and Master's Degree in 2015 (Colorado State University). In his personal time, he enjoys running, hiking, biking, mountain climbing, and exploring outdoors with his wife and three sons.

**Sarah Wright** started as a water pollution inspector in the MoDNR St. Louis Regional office. After finding a passion for stormwater, she moved to the Operating Permits Section in the Water Protection Program to serve as the Stormwater Coordinator for Missouri. In March of 2024 she took on the role of supervisor for the General Permits, MS4, 401 unit overseeing water quality certifications, stormwater permitting and outreach, along with the vast world of general permits. Sarah can be reached at [sarah.wright@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:sarah.wright@dnr.mo.gov), 573-526-1139, or [ms4@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:ms4@dnr.mo.gov).

**Dr. Pinar Turker** is an urban planner with over 20 years of expertise in research, spatial data analysis, and grant management for community development. She holds a Bachelor of City Planning (B.C.P.), a Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning, and a Graduate Degree in Urban Policy Planning, with a specialization in sustainable urban development and urban water management. Currently, she serves as the Community Services Grants Administrator for St. Charles County. In this role, she oversees a range of federal and local grants, including HOME, HOME-ARP, CDBG, CDBG-CV, and CDBG-DR. Her responsibilities encompass planning community services, floodplain management, disaster recovery, and contract oversight with various organizations serving vulnerable populations. She is actively involved in the Continuum of Care (CoC) for St. Charles, Lincoln, and Warren Counties, where she serves on the Executive Committee and chairs the CoC Data and Performance Committee. Her work focuses on ending homelessness and supporting fragile families through effective data management and performance evaluation. Her professional background also includes

positions with the City of St. Louis, the Tourism and Housing Administrations of the Turkish government, and MicroImages (GIS & Remote Sensing), Inc. Throughout her career, she has consistently dedicated herself to supporting low-income communities, analyzing diverse data sets, and translating complex data into accessible insights for varied audiences.

**Mike Beaty** graduated from the University of Kansas with both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in Civil Engineering. He has spent nearly 40 years in public infrastructure design and construction with projects across the Midwest. He serves as Great River Engineering's Senior Transportation and Flood engineer. He also serves as the floodplain manager for Laclede County. In his positions, he continually reminds everyone of his greatest lesson learned in school that water always runs downhill.

**Aspen Wiliams** graduated from Missouri University of Science and Technology with degrees in Civil and Architectural Engineering. She began her career in Oklahoma with two years of experience in site development and infrastructure design with extensive work with 1D HEC-RAS modeling. Since joining GRE in 2019, Aspen has worked on projects covering a wide variety of sizes, applications, and funding sources. She worked on various 1D and 2D HEC-RAS models as a part of GRE's Bridge Team and continues to design unique stormwater management solutions as part of GRE's Transportation Team through her work on projects through the Federal Highway Administration's Transportation Alternatives Program.

**Zackary Becker** has been with the Missouri Water Resources Center since 2019. After receiving a degree in Environmental Science, with a focus in soil management, Zackary has been involved with environmental restoration projects, flood resilience and planning initiatives, and is currently leading the Missouri Hydrology Information Center. As the Unit Chief of the Center, Zack is focused on expanding the state's soil moisture monitoring, streamgage monitoring, and building out a flooding model for the state. After working through the 2019 Flood, he has a keen interest in helping Missourians understand how flooding happens and working to develop better flood resiliency across Missouri Communities.