

Waterfront Development in a Changing Climate

Tuesday, June 20, 2017

9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Bios for Panelists and Moderator



Michael W. Tantala, P.E. is a Professional Engineer and Principal with Tantala Associates, LLC, Engineers & Architects in Philadelphia and an Adjunct Professor at the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture at the City College of New York. Michael is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania (B.S.E.) and Princeton University (M.S.E. and M.A.). Michael is a licensed Professional Engineer in seven states and he has authored 28 technical papers and publications in safety research. Michael was awarded a Mayoral Commendation by the City of New York for engineering response and recovery work during 9/11 and is also a co-recipient of the Latrobe Prize in 2007 by American Institute of Architects (AIA). His professional interests include design and engineering of structures, code compliance, risk assessment for earthquake, wind and flood hazards, GIS/geospatial modeling of urban infrastructure systems and their interactions. Contact: mtantala@tantala.com



Kristin Baja, CFM, is the Climate Resilience Officer for the Urban Sustainability Directors Network. Until about two weeks ago, Kristin served as the Climate and Resilience Planner with the Office of Sustainability at Baltimore City, where she led the development and implementation of the City's Disaster Preparedness Project and Plan (DP3) which integrates climate adaptation with hazard mitigation efforts. She was also responsible for climate change communication and outreach, Community Rating System (CRS) certification, resiliency planning and STAR Communities certification. Additionally, Kristin is a Certified Floodplain Manager and assists with floodplain mapping and CRS. She is an active member of the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, Climate Communications Consortium of Maryland, American Society of Adaptation Professionals, and the Baltimore City Forestry Board. Kristin holds a Master of Urban Planning degree and a Master of Science degree from the University of Michigan. In 2016, Kristin was recognized by the White House as a Champion of Change for her work on climate equity and resilience. Contact: Kristin.Baja@gmail.com



Roland Lewis, President and CEO, Waterfront Alliance
A lifetime New Yorker, Roland Lewis has worked in the field of community development since 1984. A graduate of Columbia University, he then went on to earn both a Master of City and Regional Planning and a Juris Doctor from Rutgers University. For nine years he served as a partner in the law firm of Dellapa, Lewis, and Perseo, whose clients included nonprofit organizations, civic groups, churches, cooperative corporations, and private real estate developers.
In 1997 Roland became the executive director of Habitat for Humanity New York City, guiding it to become nationally emulated model for Habitat for Humanity locations in other urban settings.

In early 2007, Roland took the helm of the Waterfront Alliance. Under his leadership, the Waterfront Alliance has organized a powerful constituency for a better waterfront. It has instituted new programs, initiated and helped create a new waterfront plan for the City of New York, and become the leading waterfront policy organization in the New York region, known nationally and internationally. Recognized as a community development, waterfront, and nonprofit expert, Roland has written extensively and spoken widely on these topics. Contact: rlewis@waterfrontalliance.org

Helen Ignas, Oliver Tyrone Pulver Corporation, has over 30 years managing the TOWER BRIDGE at CONSHOHOCKEN, a waterfront development straddling the Schuylkill River in Conshohocken PA. In addition, the firm has experience with riverfront development in Chicago, IL and Pittsburgh, PA. Ms. Ignas's background was original in Finance before she migrated to Operations and Facilities Management with the diverse growth and expansion of the firm's portfolio. Additionally, Ms. Ignas has more than 5 years' experience managing biotech, medical research and medical office buildings in the California coastal zone. Contact: 610-834-3185.



Tom Friese, P.E., is a Senior Engineer in and Division Manager of the Site/Civil Design and Landscape Architecture Division at Pennoni's Philadelphia headquarters office. In addition to overseeing a staff of engineers, landscape architects, planners and technicians, he is responsible for the management of multi-disciplined projects. With over 35 years of site design experience, his expertise includes site feasibility studies; zoning subdivision and land development projects for institutional, commercial, and industrial clients; environmental and stormwater design and permitting; and grading and earthwork. Mr. Friese has also prepared numerous existing conditions replacement cost evaluation reports for commercial buildings and residential associations. He represents clients before agencies, boards and commissions and has provided expert testimony in legal proceedings. Mr. Friese holds professional registrations in five states and Washington, D.C. in addition to Pennsylvania. He is Past President and State Director for the Philadelphia Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers. He obtained a Bachelor of Architectural Engineering degree from Penn State in 1983 and a Master of Civil Engineering from Villanova University in 1988.



Barry Seymour serves as Executive Director of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), the regional planning forum for the Greater Philadelphia region, with a focus on transportation, land use, the environment and economic growth.

As both staff director and liaison to the DVRPC Board, Mr. Seymour has the primary responsibility to craft a regional agenda and an annual work program. DVRPC's long-range plan and short-term Transportation Improvement Program allocates over \$1 billion annually for transportation improvements across the region. In his time at DVRPC, Mr. Seymour instituted the first municipal grant program for revitalization of urban neighborhoods and older suburban communities, spearheaded the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Smart Transportation initiative, oversaw a regional food system plan, and is now directing efforts to improve energy efficiency in the region. He is a recipient of the 2008 Pennsylvania Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence.

Prior to relocating to Philadelphia, Mr. Seymour was Director of Waterfront and Open Space Planning for the New York City Department of City Planning, and an Environmental Planner with the Long Island Regional Planning Board. He has a Bachelor of Science degree from Tufts University and a Master of Regional Planning degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Contact: 215-238-2831.