



## **CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING**

### **Water Quality in the Upper Mississippi Basin: Nitrates, Treatment Costs, and the Role of Agriculture**

#### **Alyssa Charney, Policy Specialist, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition**



Alyssa Charney is a policy specialist at the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC), in Washington DC, advocating for federal food and policy reform. She leads NSAC's work on farm bill conservation, and also works on organic agriculture, climate change, and the annual appropriations process. Alyssa holds an M.S. in Agriculture and Food Policy and an M.P.H from Tufts University, as well as a B.A. in Environmental Studies from Vassar College. She has worked on food and agriculture policy at the Center for Rural Affairs, New England Farmers Union, and the National Farm to School Network.

#### **Kelly Warner, Hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey**



Kelly Warner has been a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey for over 20 years with expertise in water-quality, groundwater, and continuous nutrient monitoring. The focus of her research is on nutrients and arsenic. Kelly is the Deputy Director for Investigations at the Illinois Iowa Missouri Water Science Center and coordinates research for the Center.

Kelly received a B.A. from Knox College and a M.S. from Northern Illinois University. Kelly has been an integral part of the U.S. Geological Survey National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program as a Regional Aquifer Coordinator where she led a team of hydrologists from Maine to Washington in investigations of water quality of the glacial aquifer system.

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## **Jeff Boeckler, Co-Founder, Northwater Consulting International**



Jeff Boeckler is co-founder of Northwater Consulting, a specialty water resources consulting firm established in 2010. Jeff is a senior Water Resource Specialist with over 15-years' experience in both the public and private sector.

Jeff has been recognized for his lead role in the design and development of SWAMM™, a custom geospatial watershed assessment and management model. The tool supports assessment, monitoring, and management of nonpoint source pollution and is currently used by many governments and organizations throughout the United States. Jeff has also developed as an expert in assessing and improving lakes and streams that serve diverse economic and environmental functions. He has directly served leadership roles on regional initiatives in the Midwest that address the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia and major environmental issues related to the Great Lakes.

## **Ankita Mandelia, Policy Analyst, Northeast-Midwest Institute**

Ankita Mandelia started working at the Northeast-Midwest Institute in 2016 as a Policy Analyst for the Towards Sustainable Water Information Program. Her responsibility is to provide research and policy education support for the program. Her focus is on the Mississippi River Basin, and availability of water quality data for the entire Northeast-Midwest region.



Prior to joining the Northeast-Midwest Institute, Ankita was the first Michigan Sea Grant Fellow at the International Joint Commission – Great Lakes Regional Office. Ankita holds a Master of Science in Environmental Engineering from Michigan Technological University and a Bachelor of Science in Engineering (Civil Engineering) from the University of Michigan.

## **Joe Vukovich, Senior Policy Analyst, Northeast-Midwest Institute**



Joe Vukovich provides research and policy analysis on matters of water and environmental policy for the Institute's Mississippi River Basin Program. He also serves as a point of contact for Capitol Hill offices and as a resource for the Institute's policy education initiatives. Most recently, Joe worked as a Legislative Fellow for Congressman Matt Cartwright before joining the Northeast-Midwest Institute.

Joe holds a Bachelor of Science in Physics from Carnegie Mellon University, and Juris Doctor and Master of Public Policy degrees from Georgetown University. At Georgetown he served on the Georgetown Environmental Law Review and was a Public Interest Fellow.

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