

## **Biographical Statements of Presenters at the workshop “Sea-Level Rise and Flooding: Planning & Law for Local Governments”**

**Dr. Samantha Danchuk** is the Assistant Director of the Environmental Planning & Community Resilience Division of Broward County where she leads the implementation of the County’s Climate Action Plan and the Energy and Sustainability program activities. She is Chair of NOAA’s Climate and Marine Resources Task Force and provides technical support for the Southeast Regional Climate Change Compact. Dr. Danchuk earned a doctorate from Louisiana State University, a Masters from UC Berkeley and a B.S. from Florida State University in the fields of environmental engineering and coastal modeling.

**Dr. Jennifer Jurado** is Broward County’s Chief Resilience Officer and Director of the Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division where she oversees regional climate resiliency initiatives, county-wide water resource policy and planning, shoreline protection and marine resources programs. Since joining the County in 2002, Jennifer has been a key figure in the advancement of multi-jurisdictional initiatives focused on water management, climate adaptation efforts, and the integration of climate policy in comprehensive planning. Of particular note has been her role in analyzing and planning for future sea level rise in the built environment. Jennifer has been engaged in the early formation and advancement of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact and continues to serve on the Staff Steering Committee. Dr. Jurado was a major contributor to President Obama’s State, Local and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience and was recognized by the White House in 2013 as a Champion of Change for her leadership on climate resilience. Dr. Jurado earned her Ph.D. in Marine Biology and Fisheries from the University of Miami.

**Dr. Jason M. Evans** is Assistant Professor of Environmental Science at Stetson University and Co-Editor-in-Chief for the Journal of Environmental Management. Trained as a landscape and systems ecologist, he is broadly interested in the management, design, and governance of nature's interfaces with modern human society. Most of Dr. Evans’s current research focuses on climate change vulnerability in coastal areas, particularly due to sea level rise. He is co-author on a 2016 study, published in Nature Climate Change, which found that up to 13.1 million Americans could be impacted by sea level rise-induced flooding by the end of the century. Evans has in recent years provided technical modeling support for sea level rise adaptation planning initiatives in numerous communities across the southeast U.S., including Tybee Island, GA; St. Marys, GA; Hyde County, NC; Monroe County, FL; the Village of Islamorada, FL; and, most recently, Satellite Beach, FL. Evans holds an M.S. (2002) and Ph.D. (2007) in Interdisciplinary Ecology from the University of Florida and for several years was a public service faculty member at the University of Georgia’s Carl Vinson Institute of Government.

**Thomas Ruppert**, coastal planning specialist at the Florida Sea Grant College Program, is a licensed attorney developing legal and policy analysis for local governments on aspects of adaptive planning for sea-level rise, community resilience, and associated long-term challenges and opportunities for Florida's coastal communities. Areas of expertise include federal and state property rights law, beach and coastal policy in Florida, flood insurance, Florida's Coastal Construction Control Line program, planning law, and coastal and marine permitting programs. He has worked with over a dozen partners to organize and host legal workshops on coastal issues and flood insurance around the state. Mr. Ruppert is currently involved with several initiatives within Florida communities planning for sea-level rise and maintains a website of original resources at [www.flseagrant.org/climatechange/coastalplanning/](http://www.flseagrant.org/climatechange/coastalplanning/).

**Erin L. Deady**, P.A. specializes in sustainability, climate, environmental, land use, water law and securing grants for clients. Clients include local governments, Special Districts, private sector, agricultural and Tribal entities specializing in climate planning issues, Gulf of Mexico & Everglades Restoration, PACE implementation, code development and all types of land use issues as well as Federal and state litigation on energy, water resources management and environmental regulatory matters. Ms. Deady previously served as Environmental Counsel to Audubon of Florida and has worked for the Village of Wellington, the Broward County Department of Planning and Environmental Protection and the SFWMD.

**Dr. Nancy J. Gassman** has been in public service for over 20 years. Since 2014 Dr. Gassman has worked for the City of Fort Lauderdale, first as Sustainability Manager and then as Assistant Public Works Director—Sustainability Division. In this position, Dr. Gassman has had the opportunity to see resilience, climate change, and sea-level rise integrated into the decision-making of all aspects of public works for the City. Dr. Gassman previously worked for Broward County for 17 years working on a variety of water resources issues, in environmental monitoring and more recently in sustainability. From 2009 to 2014, her main focus in the Natural Resources Planning and Management Division was been supporting the development and implementation of Broward's Climate Change Action Plan and managing Broward's Energy and Sustainability Program. She coordinated the development of select technical tools for the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact as part of the creation of the Regional Climate Action Plan.

**Ms. Elizabeth M. Perez, P.E., D.WRE, CFM** is the President and Founder of Collective Water Resources, LLC. Ms. Perez has co-authored three books including "Water Supply and Pollution Control (8th Edition and upcoming 9th Edition)", "The Status of State Water Resources Planning in the United States 2005", -and "The Role of Technology in Water Resources Planning and Management" - among various other publications.

Elizabeth earned her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering from University of Florida and her Masters of Science in Civil Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Elizabeth is a Registered Professional Engineer in Florida, a Certified Floodplain Manager, member of the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers, and on the Board of the

Florida Stormwater Association. Ms. Perez has worked on water resource and stormwater projects for local and state governments in Florida and Georgia for almost 20 years. Specialties include hydrologic modeling, data management and GIS, low impact development, outreach, watershed management, and master planning.