

## **ADDITIONAL BREAKOUT SESSION LEADERS:**

**Matt Decker**, Director of Conservation and Stewardship, Orange County Land Trust

Matt Decker is Director of Conservation and Stewardship at the Orange County Land Trust, where he works with municipalities and landowners to protect land and water resources. Matt previously worked with the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, the Trust for Public Land, and the USDA Forest Service. He holds a Bachelor of Science from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and a Master of Environmental Management from Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies.

**Karen Doyle**, Manager of Public Policy and Planning, HHLT

Karen spearheads HHLT's public policy efforts on natural resource planning, open space prioritization and watershed protection, and serves as the primary liaison to municipal bodies throughout the organization's mission area. She has previously worked as an attorney at non-profit and governmental law offices, and represented various municipalities in land-use, zoning, public health and environmental matters. During her career in the NYC Law Department, she spent many years working with the Department of Environmental Protection on watershed protection issues. Karen has also served on a variety of local municipal boards and committees, including the Village of Cold Spring Planning Board, Special Board for the Comprehensive Plan and Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan, and Code Update Committee. Karen holds a JD from Brooklyn Law School and a BS in Applied Economics from Hofstra University.

**Lee Kyriacou**, Member, Beacon City Council

Lee Kyriacou is a nine-term city councilman in Beacon NY. Lee was first elected in 1993, shortly after moving to Beacon from New York City, and led the rezoning changes that preserved neighborhoods while laying the groundwork for Beacon's turnaround. Currently, he is again leading rezoning efforts in Beacon, now with an eye to more closely managing development to advance community goals. This included a temporary building moratorium, in part due to concerns of adequate water supplies for expected community growth. Lee works in financial services in Manhattan, and has graduate degrees in law and economics from Yale.

**Asher Pacht**, Director of Environmental Programs, Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries, Clarkson University  
Member, Beacon Natural Resources Inventory Committee

Asher Pacht is Director of Environmental Programs at the Beacon Institute, managing outreach, education and volunteer activities. He works with partners and supporters to create and expand programming. Asher worked previously for Hudson Highlands Nature Museum, NYU Law School and Sierra Club. He holds an MPA from NYU Wagner School of Public Service and a BA from Northeastern University.



Many thanks to **Randi Schlesinger** for our beautiful promotional materials and our **community volunteers** who help make the forum a success.

Links and handouts from this forum will also be available at [www.hhlt.org](http://www.hhlt.org).

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust is a community-based accredited non-profit land conservation organization dedicated to the protection of the natural resources, rural character and scenic beauty of the Hudson Highlands. It offers free workshops and forums to bring environmental and conservation issues to the forefront of public dialogue. For more information, please contact the Hudson Highlands Land Trust at [845-424-3358](tel:845-424-3358) or visit [www.hhlt.org](http://www.hhlt.org)



HHLT 2018  
Community Forum

**Sunday, April 15, 2018**  
**11am – 3pm**

**Highlands Country Club**  
**955 Route 9D, Garrison, New York**

Learn how land-use decisions impact our drinking water

Learn how we can protect this valuable resource

Get into details during breakout sessions on local case studies  
led by water experts

Enjoy complimentary lunch provided by the  
Highlands Country Club

With the generous support of:



**11:00am: Check-in**

**11:10am: Welcome**

**Michelle Smith**, HHLT Executive Director  
**Sandy Galef**, New York State Assemblywoman

**11:20am Panel Discussion**

**Safe Drinking Water:  
An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure**

**MODERATOR:**

**Carla Castillo**, Hudson Valley Regional Council /  
Cornwall Conservation Advisory Council

**PANELISTS:**

**Elisa Chae**, Cornell Water Resources Institute /  
NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program

**Paul Gallay**, Riverkeeper

**Peter Smith**, Quassaick Creek Watershed Alliance

**Russell Urban-Mead**, The Chazen Companies

**12:30 – 1:30pm: Lunch Break**

**1:30–2:15pm Breakout Session 1**

**2:15–3:00pm Breakout Session 2**

**BREAKOUT TOPICS**

Local Case Studies

**Newburgh: Surface Water Contamination**

**Peter Smith**, Quassaick Creek Watershed Alliance and

**Matt Decker**, Orange County Land Trust

**Philipstown: Ground Water Issues**

**Karen Doyle**, HHLT and **Russell Urban-Mead**, The Chazen Companies

**Beacon: Water Supply for a Growing City**

**Lee Kyriacou**, Beacon City Council and **Asher Pacht**, Beacon Institute for  
Rivers and Estuaries / Beacon Natural Resources Inventory Committee



**MODERATOR:**

**Carla Castillo**, Senior Planner / Clean Energy Communities Coordinator,  
Hudson Valley Regional Council  
Chair, Cornwall Conservation Advisory Council

Carla Castillo has been Senior Planner / Clean Energy Communities Coordinator for HVRC since August 2016. In this role, she directs NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities Program in HVRC's seven county Mid-Hudson Valley Region, promoting economic development while reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions as well as increasing energy cost savings. In partnership with the City of Kingston, Carla is also conducting an organics diversion feasibility analysis for the City. Carla received an MCP in City & Regional Planning and an MS in International Development & Appropriate Technology from the University of Pennsylvania. She received a BA in Latin American Studies from UCLA. Carla volunteers in the Town of Cornwall, chairing the Cornwall Conservation Advisory Council and serving on the Comprehensive Plan Committee.

**PANELISTS:**

**Elisa Chae**, Source Water Specialist, Cornell Water Resources Institute /  
NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program

Elisa Chae is the Source Water Specialist for the Hudson River Estuary Program at the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, in partnership with the Water Resources Institute at Cornell University. Her work involves looking at connections between drinking water and watersheds to help improve source water management and protection. Elisa has worked for the US Army Corps of Engineers, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the New York City Council. She has a bachelor's degree in Earth Science from Cornell University and a law degree from Brooklyn Law School.

**Paul Gallay**, President, Riverkeeper

Paul and the Riverkeeper team work to protect the Hudson River and the drinking water supplies for nine million New Yorkers. An attorney and educator, Paul has dedicated himself to the environmental movement since 1987, when he left the private practice of law and went to work for the New York State Attorney General. In 1990, Paul began a ten-year stint at New York's Department of Environmental Conservation and subsequently spent a decade in the land conservation movement before becoming Riverkeeper's President in 2010. Paul is a graduate of Williams College and Columbia Law School. He has held a number of teaching positions, including his current appointment with the Earth Institute at Columbia University.

**Peter Smith**, Quassaick Creek Watershed Alliance

Peter Smith is an architect, a graduate of the Pratt Institute, and Fellow of the American Academy in Rome. Before moving to Newburgh, his office was in the Garrison Landing. Much of his architectural work is tucked away in the folds and wrinkles of the Hudson Highlands. After more than 40 years in private practice, Peter retired and has become obsessed with the complex twists and turns of the Quassaick Creek watershed.

**Russell Urban-Mead, PG, LEED® AP**, Senior Principal, Vice President, Environmental Services;  
The Chazen Companies

Mr. Urban-Mead, M.S. (Geology) is an Environmental Scientist and Senior Hydrogeologist with 24 years of work experience at The Chazen Companies. He directs water supply investigations and regional aquifer and water resource assessments to develop new water sources and water resource management plans. In 2004 he authored a groundwater protection plan for Putnam County and in 2007 he prepared a more detailed groundwater study for the Town of Philipstown. In 2011, Mr. Urban-Mead became Vice President of Chazen's environmental services team. He continues to direct and manage water supply and water resource projects, focusing also on watercourse restoration and dam removal projects. As a volunteer, he serves on the Board of Directors of the Hudson River Watershed Alliance and coordinates HRWA's monthly watershed breakfast speakers series in New Paltz.