

Photo Credit: TN Citizens for Wilderness Planning

# TENNESSEE NUTRIENT SUMMIT

**Weaving a Stronger Net to Protect Our Surface Waters**

**NOVEMBER 7, 2025**

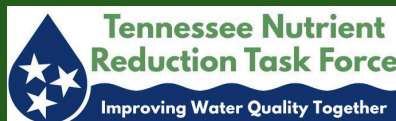
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Ashraf Islam Engineering Bldg., Atrium  
Tennessee Tech University

Managing nitrogen and phosphorus in Tennessee's surface waters is a complex challenge - one that demands collaboration and action. The Tennessee Nutrient Summit is bringing in professionals, policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and community leaders from across sectors, including agriculture, stormwater, wastewater, conservation, to come together for a vital conversation and information exchange. With our theme, "Weaving a Stronger Net to Protect Our Surface Waters," this summit will spotlight tools, strategies, and solutions from diverse agencies and partners aimed at reducing nutrient loading and safeguarding water quality across the state. Attendees will engage in a series of sector-focused sessions and panel discussions featuring real-world case studies, success stories, and collaborative discussions. This group will share interdisciplinary insights to tackle nutrient challenges and help shape practical, actionable approaches that can produce scalable results. Whether you are driving research, implementing on-the-ground solutions, or crafting policy, your voice is essential. Together, we can build stronger networks, deepen our collective knowledge, and drive meaningful change for cleaner water today and for future generations.

**CONTACT:**

CRYSTAL WARREN, [crystal.warren@tn.gov](mailto:crystal.warren@tn.gov)  
TANIA DATTA, [tdatta@ntech.edu](mailto:tdatta@ntech.edu)



# TENNESSEE NUTRIENT SUMMIT

Photo Credit: TN Citizens for Wilderness Planning

## Weaving a Stronger Net to Protect Our Surface Waters

### **MORNING SESSION**

#### **8:00–8:30 REGISTRATION**

*Coffee provided by the Center for the Management, Utilization and Protection of Water Resources, Tennessee Tech University*

#### **8:30–8:45 WELCOME NOTE**

*Justin Murdock, Director, Center for the Management, Utilization and Protection of Water Resources, Tennessee Tech University*

*Joseph Slater, Dean, College of Engineering, Tennessee Tech University*

#### **8:45–9:15 ICE BREAKER ACTIVITY AND NETWORKING**

#### **9:15–9:30 AN OVERVIEW OF THE TENNESSEE NUTRIENT REDUCTION TASKFORCE AND SUCCESS STORIES**

*Karina Bynum, Environmental Fellow, Division of Water Resources, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation*

#### **9:30–10:00 SESSION 1: NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO NUTRIENT REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT**

The Southern Conservation Blueprint

*Emily Granstaff, Recovery Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services*

Nature-based Solutions in West Tennessee Watersheds

*David Blackwood, Executive Director, West Tennessee River Basin Authority*

TN Riparian Incentives Program – A Partnership for Riparian Forested Buffers in TN

*Heidi McIntyre-Wilkinson, Deputy Administrator, Tennessee Department of Agriculture*

#### **10:00–10:30 SESSION 2: AGRICULTURAL SOLUTIONS TO NUTRIENT REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT**

Enhancing Nutrient Retention on Agricultural Fields Through Migratory Shorebird Stopover Habitat Management

*Jason M. Taylor, Center for Water and Wetland Research, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Mississippi*

The AnnAGNPS pollution model: a watershed planning tool for evaluating conservation practices effect on sediments and nutrients from agriculture

*Henrique Momm, Professor in the Department of Geosciences at Middle TN State University*

Successes of the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI) in TN

*Linda Ortiz, State Resource Conservationist, USDA-NRCS*

#### **10:30–11:00 NATURE-BASED AND AGRICULTURAL SOLUTIONS PANEL DISCUSSION AND Q&A**

#### **11:00–11:30 KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

*David Salyers, Commissioner of the TN Department of Environment and Conservation*

#### **11:30–12:30 LUNCH AND NETWORKING**

*Sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation*

# TENNESSEE NUTRIENT SUMMIT

Photo Credit: TN Citizens for Wilderness Planning

## Weaving a Stronger Net to Protect Our Surface Waters

### **AFTERNOON SESSION**

12:30—1:00

#### **SESSION 3: NUTRIENT REDUCTION SUCCESS STORIES FROM MUNICIPALITIES**

Growing Partnerships for Cleaner Water: Community-Driven Nutrient Reduction

*Joshua Rogers, Water Quality Supervisor, Department of Public Works, City of Chattanooga*

*Maria Price, Assistant City Engineer for Public Works, City of Chattanooga*

City of Franklin's Innovative Approach to Water Reclamation Designed to Improve Water Resilience

*Saya Hickey, Associate Vice President, Strategy and Policy Advisement Lead, Water Resources,*

*Hazen and Sawyer*

City of Spring Hill's Wastewater Treatment Plant optimization with TNPOP Assistance

*Jessica Weaver, Assistant General Manager, Compliance & Technology*

*City of Spring Hill, Tennessee*

1:00—1:30

#### **MUNICIPALITIES SUCCESS STORIES PANEL DISCUSSION AND Q&A**

1:30—2:00

#### **SESSION 4: WATER QUALITY MONITORING AND DATA**

The Tennessee Nutrient Database

*Grace Tinker, Research Lab Manager, Water Center, Tennessee Tech University*

Variability of Nutrient Concentrations in the Principal Aquifers of Tennessee

*Kristi Hill, Hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey*

2:00—2:30

#### **SESSION 5: A WATERSHED APPROACH TOWARDS NUTRIENT REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT**

Ridges to Rivers: A Regional Conservation Partnership Program Protecting the Cumberland Plateau and the Sequatchie Valley for Aquatic Resources Management

*Anna L. George, Vice President of Conservation Science and Education, TN Aquarium*

Farming after the flood: Efforts to recover post-Helene in East Tennessee

*Forbes Walker, Professor and Extension Soil Specialist, University of Tennessee Extension*

Riverbank Stabilization and Riparian Restoration Post-Helene

*Andrea Ludwig, Professor of Ecological Engineering and Extension Specialist, University of TN*

2:30—3:00

#### **WATER QUALITY AND WATERSHED APPROACHES PANEL DISCUSSION AND Q & A**

3:00—3:30

#### **COFFEE AND NETWORKING BREAK**

3:30—3:50

#### **SESSION 6: LAKES/RESERVOIRS AND BIOLOGICAL RESPONSES TO NUTRIENTS**

Building Tennessee's HABs Response Program: Lessons, Challenges, and Progress

*Jessica Rader, Harmful Algal Bloom Response Coordinator, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation*

TVA Water Quality Monitoring and Stewardship Projects

*Shannon O'Quinn Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Program Manager TVA*

3:50—4:00

#### **SESSION 7: TYING ALL NUTRIENT REDUCTION EFFORTS TOGETHER**

Non-Profit Strategies for Nutrient Reduction

*Mekayle Houghton, Executive Director, Cumberland River Compact*

4:00—4:30

#### **CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS**