



## YORK RIVER & SMALL COASTAL BASIN ROUNDTABLE

## 2023 Lunch-and-Learn Series Speaker Bios and Talk Summaries

### Q4: Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

October 12, 2023; 12-1pm Eastern

#### 2-year HAB Study on Lake Anna

##### **Sarah Sivers, Virginia DEQ**

Sarah Sivers is the Water Permit, Planning and Monitoring Manager for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Northern Regional Office. During her 19 years with DEQ, she has worked in the Virginia Water Protection Permit Program as a permit writer, in the Office of Water Supply working on surface water withdrawal projects, and in the Water Quality Planning Program as a team lead overseeing the regional development and implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and assessment of the region's water quality data. In Ms. Sivers' current position, she manages the regional Water Permit and Planning Department, which is responsible for the following programs: Wastewater permits, Pretreatment, Toxics Management, Water Quality Assessments, and TMDLs. Ms. Sivers has a Bachelor's of Science in Biology from the College of William and Mary and a Master's of Natural Resources from Virginia Tech.



#### HABs Mitigation and Remediation Efforts

##### **Harry Looney, Lake Anna Civic Association**

Harry is a retired U.S. Army officer who served 20 years as an artilleryman and space operator. Harry graduated from the United States Military Academy with a Bachelor's in Applied Engineering and received his Master's in Space Operations from the Air Force Institute of Technology in Dayton, Ohio. After retiring from the Army, he joined a defense contractor and continued his focus on space acquisition and space operations supporting multiple agencies in the Department of Defense. Harry started his own defense services business and managed it until its sale to a mid-tier defense contractor. Harry is now fully retired and he and his wife,



Marci, live at Lake Anna in the Upper York River basin. Harry currently serves as the Water Quality Project Program Manager and Chair of the Water Quality Committee for the Lake Anna Civic Association (LACA). LACA is a non-profit, 501(c)(3), all volunteer organization focused on preserving and protecting Lake Anna and its watershed. Harry's primary function is to manage LACA's Water Quality Monitoring Program (WQMP) that was established to bring multiple internal projects and organizational efforts under a common framework. The WQMP captures all that LACA is engaged in, from a water quality perspective, to achieve its objectives of preserving and protecting Lake Anna's water resources.

## **HABs in the Lower York**

### **Kim Reece, VIMS**

Kim Reece is a professor in the Ecosystem Health Section at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). Kim has been at VIMS for more than 28 years and has served on the HAB Task Force for more than 20 years. During this time she and her lab members have been working with the Department of Health to monitor the lower Chesapeake Bay waters for HAB organisms using microscopy and PCR assays. Her lab also conducts molecular genetic studies on aquacultured shellfish species and aquatic pathogens of humans and shellfish. A primary focus of her research is examining the biological impacts of harmful algae on aquatic organisms. A key component is the development and optimization of molecular diagnostic assays for viral, bacterial, and protistan organisms, including the HAB species, in various environmental matrices including water, sediments, and shellfish tissues.



## **HABs Advisories, Reporting and Communications in York River System**

### **Todd Egerton, VDH**

Todd Egerton is the Marine Science Supervisor for Virginia Department of Health's Division of Shellfish Safety and Waterborne Hazards. His group at VDH works to protect the public health of shellfish consumers and recreational water users through monitoring, research and public outreach and education. Todd has been with the health department for the last 7 years and worked on harmful algal blooms in Virginia for over 20. He has a Master's in Biology and a PhD in Ecology from Old Dominion University.

