

2022 Capacity Workshop Bios

Funding Landscape Panel

Based on their varied experiences and perspectives, panelists will discuss funding outlooks heading into 2023, public-private funding connections, and opportunities for local watershed conservation organizations.

Liz Bell: Former Senior Program Officer, Wilburforce Foundation

Liz Bell was the Wilburforce Foundation's Senior Program Officer for Yellowstone to Yukon. Liz recently wrapped up 15 years of service as a member of the Wilburforce staff, launching into retirement and her next set of adventures. In the Foundation's early years, Liz was a Wilburforce grantee at the Land Trust Alliance, building the capacity of organizations to strategically conserve private lands. For that work, she received a Wilburforce Conservation Leadership Award. She joined the foundation staff in 2006, starting as a Program Associate for the Northwest and Southwest. She was promoted to Program Officer for Y2Y in 2011, and Senior Program Officer in 2021. Liz has been a powerful part of the Wilburforce team, creating strong relationships and partnerships, building capacity, forging effective strategies, and protecting wildlife and wildlands. Outside of work, Liz is an avid birder, and we expect to encounter her in the wild with her spotting scope, adding to her life list.

Caroline Byrd: Founder, SeaBird Strategics LLC

Caroline Byrd is a seasoned environmental leader in the Northern Rockies with decades of experience in public and private land conservation and conservation philanthropy. She led the Cinnabar Foundation and currently consults for a number of funders. Caroline started her career working in the wild lands of Wyoming, Montana and Alaska as a Wilderness Ranger and National Outdoor Leadership Instructor. Her love of wild places and wildlife started her on her career path as a conservationist, but it is her ability to work with people that sets her apart as a leader. For The Nature Conservancy, she managed and implemented the largest private land conservation project in TNC's history, the Montana Legacy Project. On the board of the Blackfoot Challenge, Caroline gained an abiding appreciation for collaboration and pragmatic, on-the-ground solutions. As Executive Director of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Caroline built a strategic, effective and well-funded organization with a string of remarkable conservation successes for Greater Yellowstone's lands, waters and wildlife. Caroline has undergraduate degrees in Environmental Studies and Anthropology, a Master's in Environmental Studies and a Juris Doctorate.

Eric Trum: Nonpoint Source and Wetlands Section Supervisor, Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Eric Trum manages the Nonpoint Source and Wetlands Section at DEQ, including the distribution of 319 Clean Water Act project funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He coordinates a group of state and federal funders to share and distribute information about the different public funding sources available for various aspects of conservation work in Montana - from capacity to planning to implementation. Eric works with local groups to help restore water quality across the state's diverse watersheds and is a past board member and board chair for the Montana Watershed Coordination Council. He has degrees in Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School and Land Resources

and Environmental Science from Montana State University. When not working, he enjoys adventuring in the Montana outdoors, coaching lacrosse, and eating delicious food.

Tim Love: Coordinator, Montana Forest Collaboration Network

Tim Love works with forest collaboratives across the state as coordinator for the Montana Forest Collaboration Network. He also works for the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) on special assignments. Tim will be representing DNRC's Forestry Assistance Bureau to discuss their funding programs and highlight partnership potential among watershed groups, forest collaboratives and agencies. Tim previously served as District Ranger for the Seeley Lake Ranger District on the Lolo National Forest for nearly twenty years. He served in the US Air Force following high school, and then returned to his home in Missoula where he received a bachelor's degree from the University of Montana. Tim remains active in forestry and has served on numerous community and non-profit Boards. His wife Donna is the author of children's nature books. The couple has three grown children and three grandchildren.

Community-Based Engagement, Communication, and Funding Panel

Panelists will focus on successful community engagement, fundraising, and collaboration efforts at the local level. Community organizations have cultivated programs that support local conservation efforts through grantmaking, community fundraising, and leveraging resources through collaboration. Workshop participants will learn how local associations can be formed (or cultivated) to provide funding, support, and communications opportunities for their organizations.

Tim Adams: Executive Director, Community Foundation of Teton Valley

Tim Adams started his nonprofit career while attaining his undergraduate degree at Humboldt State University and has spent the last 30 years continuing his goal to give back to society. He worked for the North Carolina Outward Bound School, Yosemite Institutes (now Nature Bridge), and YMCA of the East Bay, serving in positions from Instructor to Director. Along the way, he achieved a Graduate Degree in Experiential Education, served on multiple boards, helped establish two nonprofits from the ground up, and most significantly met his wife, Shawn.

Over 14 years ago, Tim, Shawn, and their two sons, Finnegan and Benjamin, moved to Teton Valley Idaho from San Francisco. Their goal was to move to a locale in which they could connect with the community and be proud to raise their sons. Teton Valley met that vision then and continues to remind them of its truly special nature. Tim served as the Executive Director of Teton Valley Trails and Pathways for 11 years before becoming the Executive Director of the Community Foundation of Teton Valley in November of 2018.

Mike Koopal: Founder & Executive Director, Whitefish Lake Institute

Mike is the founder and executive director of the Whitefish Lake Institute. His work focuses on long-term water quality monitoring and protecting the lake and local streams. Mike serves as a governor appointed member of the Water Pollution Control Advisory Committee. He also chairs the Flathead Basin Commission On-site Wastewater Treatment Committee and Technical Committee.

His past service includes governor appointments to the Flathead Basin Commission and Upper Columbia Conservation Commission. He also served on the Montana Watershed Coordination Council Board and the Whitefish Climate Action Plan Committee. Mike was a co-coordinator of the second and third editions of the Montana Lake Book, and he is a past recipient of the Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society's Individual Achievement Award for his outstanding contribution to the protection and enhancement of fisheries resources in Montana.

Gavin Clark: Executive Director, Park County Community Foundation

Gavin has dedicated his entire professional career working in non-profit fundraising and development, senior-level strategic planning, and organizational leadership. Prior to joining the Park County Community Foundation, Gavin was the Philanthropy Manager for American Prairie Reserve. His primary role was to build and maintain meaningful relationships with supporters, resulting in increased philanthropic support, enthusiasm, and awareness.

Before moving to Park County, Gavin served as Deputy Finance Director for Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper's victorious re-election campaign. Gavin was a founding member of Donor Development Strategies, a national fundraising firm focused on raising money for PBS and NPR stations. Gavin currently serves as the Vice-Chair of Livingston's Parks and Trails Committee, and he has been the Executive Director of the Park County Community Foundation Since 2019. Gavin, his wife Amy, and their two sons are honored to call Livingston home. Originally from Santa Fe, NM, Gavin holds a BA in Environmental Policy and Ethics from the University of Portland.

Workshop Facilitators

Heather Stokes: Senior Facilitator, Center for Natural Resources & Environmental Policy

Heather has 25 years of experience applying human behavior concepts to enhance the impact and effectiveness of partnerships among diverse public, private, and community-based organizations. She thrives on uniting people and ideas to resolve the complex challenges that plague our communities and environment. As a Senior Facilitator at the Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy at The University of Montana and an independent consultant, Heather leads teams and facilitates collaborative processes to help groups reach desired outcomes. She creates safe spaces for thoughtful, difficult, and transparent dialogue by respecting values and culture. Heather is currently facilitating the Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation's Water Comprehensive Review stakeholder working group collaborative process to address the growing needs of water in the 21st Century. She recently co-facilitated the Montana Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council, comprised of 18 diverse Montana citizens representing a variety of cultures, beliefs, and livelihoods resulting in consensus-based recommendations on grizzly bear conservation and management. She has spent time in Kenya, Zimbabwe, and South Africa learning and engaging in activities related to environmental impact assessments, collecting and analyzing human/wildlife conflict data, and educating school children in natural resource issues.

Shauni Seccombe: Project Manager, Center for Natural Resources & Environmental Policy

Shauni ensures the successful completion of project objectives through inclusive multi-party collaboration, effective communication, strategic planning, and creative process design. In doing so, she works to develop and advance natural resource management and policy-making processes at local, state, and regional scales. Prior to joining the Center for Natural Resources & Environmental Policy, Shauni worked as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Montana where she designed an innovative online course (ENST 472: Conservation Education) focused on experiential learning, conservation strategies, and collaborative approaches to environmental problem-solving. She also worked for the U.S. Forest Service and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. Together, these experiences strengthened her interest in sustainable land use practices for the benefit of both people and place.