

## 2020 CONSERVATION BANKING WEBINAR SERIES

# SPEAKER BIOS

### Webinar #4: Operations & Management of Banks – The Role of Mitigation Review Teams & Banking Partners

**Katie Allen** leads The Conservation Fund’s Conservation Leadership Network (CLN) in the development, execution and evaluation of The Fund’s range of services related to innovative partnership programs, capacity building trainings, sustainability consulting and technical assistance. Katie works with community, governmental, and corporate partners to build capacity among leaders to enable on the ground conservation solutions and reach sustainable economic development goals.

Since 2010, Katie has designed and led several national and place-based initiatives for The Fund including the Federal Lands Livability Initiative, the National Workshop on Water Quality Trading, and Appalachian Gateway Community workshops and sustainable tourism assessments. She serves as facilitator for CLN’s long-standing and highly-acclaimed Balancing Nature and Commerce Course, Mitigation Banking for Inter-Agency Review Teams Course, and Conservation Banking Course, as well as their regional offerings across the country. She holds a Masters of City and Regional Planning in Environmental and Land Use Planning from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and a Bachelor of Science in Communications from Boston University.

**Charlotte Kucera** is a Texas Transportation Liaison for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She has statewide responsibility for Section 7 consultations and mitigation for transportation projects across Texas. Prior to her employment with the Service, she worked for the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Texas Department of Transportation. She holds a B.S. in Biology from the University of Notre Dame and a Master’s degree in Marine Science from the University of Texas.

**Valerie Layne** is an Ecologist with the US Army Corps of Engineers Institute for Water Resources (IWR) in Alexandria, VA. She supports the USACE Regulatory Program through developing and delivering trainings on compensatory mitigation for USACE regulators, and as the National Administrator for the Regulatory In-lieu Fee and Bank Information Tracking System (RIBITS), working with the RIBITS team to ensure RIBITS continues to meet the needs of the regulatory community. Prior to joining IWR, she was a Senior Biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for over a decade, where she specialized in joint-agency review and guidance for compensatory mitigation projects, including mitigation and conservation banks, served on IRTs in two Corps Districts, and was a RIBITS Super-Administrator for the Service. All told, she has nearly 30 years’ experience ranging from biological inventories, special status species surveys, and monitoring ecological restoration and mitigation projects in the non-profit and private sectors, to regulatory with the federal government.

**Veronica Rowan** is an attorney with the Department of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor, Pacific Southwest Region. Veronica primarily advises the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Region 8 and associated Field Offices. Her field of expertise includes the implementation and application of a variety of federal statutes including the Endangered Species Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act and various other statutes, as well as legal issues related to property and contract law. Veronica is one of a few

attorneys in the Solicitor's office that advises the Conservation Banking Program. Veronica holds a Bachelor of Science in environmental studies from Rutgers University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of California, Davis. She joined the Solicitor's office by way of its Honors Program in 2004.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information, go to the [Webinar Series Information](#) page. All webinars will be recorded and uploaded to this website.