



Smart Growth Collaborative & Water Resources Collaborative Joint Meeting: Building a Greener Workforce for Resilient Regional Economic Development

Thursday, September 10, 2020

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Virtual meeting – Microsoft Teams link shared with RSVP

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions (~15 min.)

TJ Cawley, Morrisville and Lori Bush, Cary - Water Resources Collaborative Co-Chairs

Wendy Jacobs, Durham and Steve Rao, Morrisville - Smart Growth Collaborative Co-Chairs

2. The Watershed Academy in East Durham (~20 min.)

Keshi Satterwhite, Community Engagement Specialist for the Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association, will share how ECWA's Watershed Academy offers adults in East Durham a 4-month program about watersheds with the goal of providing skills and resources to 10 new community stewards. After completion of this virtual program, participants will have the option of obtaining assistance with rain garden certification.

3. Green Building Design and Construction at Central Carolina Community College (~20 min.)

Jeff Gannon, Lead Instructor of the Building Construction Technologies Program at the Central Carolina Community College campus in Pittsboro, will discuss how this program offers students skills they can use to design and construct buildings that consume less energy, a workforce development opportunity that can aid students' entry into sustainable construction.

4. Strength in Numbers: A Regional Plan for Economic Resilience and Prosperity (~30 min)

Lindsay Whitson, Senior Planner at TJCOG, will give an overview of TJCOG's regional economic development strategy and lead a discussion based on how Triangle communities and organizations view our regions' strengths and opportunities for economic growth, and how stakeholders can get involved.

4. Questions & Open Discussion (~35 min.)

This is intended as a venue to learn and share best practices and ideas—potential discussion topics include:

How is your organization approaching increasing access to workforce training, in the green building, green infrastructure or other sectors?

How is your organization working to ensure equitable access to contracts for development?

What organizations or individuals might benefit from connecting or partnering on the efforts discussed today?

Do you think there is opportunity for intergovernmental or regional collaboration to help streamline any process(es) (if so, which processes)? Are there ways that TJCOG could help in future?

5. Closing (5 min.)

Co-Chairs

Speaker Biographies

Keshi Satterwhite, a Durham native, graduated from North Carolina Wesleyan College with dual bachelor's degrees in Accounting and Business Administration. Keshi is devoted to her neighborhood and community, working with local community partners to restore the Ellerbe Creek's watershed and engage community residents in planning and stewardship opportunities. As the Ellerbe Creek Watershed Associations (ECWA) Community Engagement Specialist, Keshi works overtime on developing a more holistic approach to conserving the water resources and habitats of Durham.

By working with and in new communities to educate them about ecological conservation of Durham watersheds, Keshi creates opportunities for new partnerships to develop around the Parks with Purpose project. As the project manager for the Parks with Purpose project, she works to highlight community values in the decision-making process to galvanize community development, stewardship and maintenance of a future East Durham park project by building a sense of ownership and place-making among East Durham residents.

Keshi is the Chair for the City of Durham Economic Prosperity Workgroup and was previously a co-chair for the City of Durham Jobs Taskforce. She is regularly involved in community outreach and was a facilitator for the Participatory Budgeting for the City of Durham.

Jeff Gannon is the Lead Instructor in the Building Construction Technologies Program at Central Carolina Community College (CCCC) at the Chatham County campus in Pittsboro. Jeff transitioned from his private practice general contracting company in 2015 to establish the AAS degree offering at CCCC to promote green building construction techniques as integral to helping meet the increasing demand for the construction trades in the central NC region. Having run his own construction company and a green building materials manufacturing company, Jeff knows, firsthand, the challenges facing many in the construction sector.

Having a diverse educational background with degrees in Anthropology and Women/Gender studies from American University, Washington D.C., and a Masters of Fine Art from UNC-Greensboro, Jeff emphasizes multiple perspectives and different lenses when tackling social challenges. In addition to the BCT Program at CCCC, Jeff launched a series of Women's Construction courses to increase pathways of access to construction workforce development. In addition to his work at CCCC, Jeff played a role within the Chatham County Climate Change Advisory Committee to successfully advance local adoption of High Performance Construction Standards in 2016, and continues to play multiple roles in support and mentorship with Habitat for Humanity, YouthBuild, Hope Renovations and his students.

Lindsay Whitson, Senior Community and Economic Development Planner, has been with Triangle J Council of Governments for eight months. She is spearheading the work under TJCOG's Economic Development District, which includes looking at economic development from a regional approach, fostering private and public partnerships, and providing technical assistance directly to TJCOG's member governments. Prior to moving to North Carolina, Lindsay was born and raised in Iowa. After receiving a Master's in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Iowa, Lindsay worked as a transportation and economic development planner at a regional planning agency that served counties in both Iowa and Illinois. She also worked at a local government as a city planner for a brief time before transitioning to TJCOG.

2020 Meeting Schedule

All meetings will be held 2-4pm via TJCOG Webex or at TJCOG.

- **Thursday, September 10th** - Joint Smart Growth & Water Resources Collaborative meeting (Topic TBD)
- **Thursday, December 10th** - Joint Smart Growth & Water Resources Collaborative meeting (Topic TBD)