APIEL 2021 Program Schedule
September 25, 2021 University of Tennessee College of Law—Virtual Learning Format
Submitted to Micki C. Fox on September 10, 2021

12th Annual Appalachian Public Interest and Environmental Law (APIEL) Conference Schedule

Saturday, September 25, 2021

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<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Environmental Law &amp; Policy Under the Biden Administration: Ethical Challenges</td>
<td>Dual</td>
<td>Presenter: Joe Jarret</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Effecting Societal Change Through Environmental Mass Tort Litigation</td>
<td>General</td>
<td>Presenters: Billy Ringger &amp; Dr. Angela Hind</td>
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<td>10:30 AM</td>
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<td>10:45 AM</td>
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<td>Fighting Environmental Injustice in Memphis, Tennessee</td>
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<td>12:15 PM</td>
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<td>1:15 PM</td>
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<td>It Takes A Village: Protecting the Memphis Sand Aquifer</td>
<td>General</td>
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<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Lobbying for Justice</td>
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<td>4:45 PM</td>
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<td>Tennessee’s Water Quality Control Act At Age Fifty</td>
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APIEL 2021 General Description:
This program features a series of workshops and presentations with the goal of exchanging information, sharing skills, and fostering collaboration between attorneys, activists, grassroots organizations, future lawyers, policymakers, students, and scientists.
Session 1 – Environmental Law & Policy Under the Biden Administration: Ethical Challenges

Time: 8:30 AM-9:30 AM
1 Dual Credit
Presenter: Joe Jarret

Speaker Biography:

Joe Jarret is an attorney and a federal and state mediator who has been practicing law for over 29 years. He has practiced law before the Tennessee Supreme Court and lower state and federal courts and before the Florida Governor and his Cabinet. He has served three different government entities as chief legal counsel the most recent being Knox County, Tennessee and has litigated environmental issues in Tennessee and Florida. He is the immediate past-president of the Blount County Bar Association, and the immediate past-chair of the Tennessee Bar Association, Local Government Law Practice section.

Joe has presented CLE-certified blocks of instruction on behalf of APIEL, the Tennessee Bar Association, the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts, the Knoxville Bar Association, the Tennessee Municipal Attorneys Association, the Blount County Bar Association, the Tennessee Municipal Attorneys Association, the Florida Bar Association, E. Tennessee Legal Aid, and other legal organizations.

He is a former active duty United States Army Armored Cavalry Officer and former United States Air Force Special Agent with service overseas. Joe is a full-time lecturer for UT’s Graduate School of Public Policy and Administration and frequently lectures at the UT Law School. He is an award-winning writer who has published over 85 articles in various professional journals including the Tennessee Bar Journal. Joe holds a Bachelor of Science Degree, a Master’s in Public Administration degree, a Juris Doctorate degree, and is a candidate for the Ph.D. in Educational Leadership at UT. He is the recipient of the Gordon Johnston Award for Excellence in the practice of Local Government Law.

Session Description:

This presentation examines a few of the highlights of the Biden environmental agenda. We can all expect that the Biden Administration will continue to move quickly to reverse the prior administration’s policies, which had been criticized for being too focused on lessening regulations for industry without regard to the long term impacts on public health or the environment. In its place, we can expect to see policies that are intended to push a more pro-consumer, pro-worker agenda—with a particular emphasis on environmental justice. This presentation will explore the ethical and legal challenges sure to face environmental lawyers and other practitioners as the attempt to navigate this complex and evolving body of law.
Billy Ringger Speaker Biography:

Billy Ringger is an attorney with the law firm Milberg Coleman Bryson Phillips Grossman, PLLC, specializing in various complex civil matters, including environmental and toxic mass tort litigation. He is a practice leader of Milberg’s Environmental and Toxic Torts litigation group, representing plaintiffs across the country, and frequently speaks on issues related to exposure to environmental toxins and the associated diseases resulting from those exposures.

Mr. Ringger has extensive experience in the areas of complex civil litigation and appellate practice. He works closely with numerous scientific and medical experts from various disciplines related to environmental health, frequently building multi-discipline expert teams to support his clients’ toxic injury claims. He is currently one of the lead attorneys representing the hundreds of East Tennessee workers claiming toxic injury due to their exposures to coal fly ash during the multi-year effort to remediate the over one billion gallons of coal ash slurry released into the environment during the containment pond failure at the Kingston Fossil Fuel Plant in December 2008 – the largest industrial spill in United States history. The federal court litigation arising from these workers’ claims has been ongoing since 2013. Mr. Ringger also leads his firm’s pesticide exposure litigation team and is currently pursuing claims in federal courts around the country on behalf of individuals who have developed various neurodegenerative conditions due to their exposure to Paraquat dichloride and other dangerous pesticides in their environment.

Mr. Ringger is originally from Parsons, Tennessee. He attended both the University of Tennessee and the University of Tennessee College of Law. After law school, Mr. Ringger served as judicial law clerk to then Chief Justice Sharon Lee of the Tennessee Supreme Court. He remained in this role for nearly two-and-a-half years, serving as Chief of Staff to the Chief Justice for much of that time.

Mr. Ringger and the Milberg team practice in state and federal courts across the country. Mr. Ringger is a member of the Knoxville and Tennessee Bar Associations and the Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association. He currently serves as Secretary of the KBA Professionalism Committee. Outside of his practice, Mr. Ringger enjoys spending time with his family and hiking in the East Tennessee mountains.

Angela Hind Speaker Biography:

Angela Hind holds an MD and has over seventeen years’ experience of medical practice, six years of business and research assistance, and seven years’ experience in litigation consultation. In litigation, she specializes in the intersection between environmental toxins and human health in cases arising from toxic contamination, including PFAS, arsenic, lead, pesticides, particulates, fluorine, cadmium, and radioactivity. Dr. Hind also assists in identifying and assembling teams of expert scientists and physicians to support the case. She is currently assisting attorney Billy Ringger with the litigation involving the Kingston coal ash spill as well as other developing mass toxic tort cases.

Session Description:

Attorney Billy Ringger will be joined by Dr. Angela Hind to discuss toxic torts and promoting social change through litigation. Mr. Ringger and Dr. Hind have worked together on several large toxic tort cases, including the Kingston Coal Ash litigation which has given them a unique perspective into these issues. They will discuss their experiences in this dynamic field of law, as well provide their insights and opinions on advances in the field, and provide advice to anyone interested in delving into the world of mass toxic torts.
Session 3 – Fighting Environmental Injustice in Memphis, Tennessee

Time: 10:45 AM-11:45 AM
1 General Credit
Presenters: Kathy Robinson, Justin Pearson, & Kizzy Jones

Kathy Robinson Speaker Biography:
Kathy Robinson is a 4th generation resident of Southwest Memphis. She graduated from Dillard University of New Orleans, Louisiana with a Public Health/Community Health Major before obtaining her master’s degree in Health Administration. She currently works in healthcare management. Kathy is also an activist for the community in which she was reared. Kathy is a co-founder of Memphis Community Against the Pipeline (MCAP) and proud member of the local neighborhood association. Memphis Community Against the Pipeline was responsible for galvanizing and strategizing to fight the construction of the Byhalia Oil Pipeline. Through advocacy and building partnerships with local organizations, MCAP was able to defeat the Byhalia Oil Pipeline to protect the land of local landowners while also protecting the drinking water for millions of people in Memphis and Shelby County. Kathy is currently on the Board of Directors for a local nonprofit in Memphis that seeks to advocate for residents in Southwest Memphis in all facets of life by promoting healthy lifestyles, a safe environment, and activities for the young and old.

Justin Pearson Speaker Biography:
Justin J. Pearson is the fourth son of five boys born to teenage parents in Memphis, Tennessee. Justin J. graduated from Mitchell High School as Valedictorian and Bowdoin College in 2017 majoring in both Government & Legal Studies and Education Studies. He currently lives in Memphis but works at the headquarters of Year Up in Boston, Massachusetts. He is focused on social, racial, and economic justice as Special Assistant to the CEO of Year Up - a national program helping 18 - 24-year-olds gain training and entry-level jobs with corporate partners such as Bank of America, Facebook, and Salesforce. Justin J. is also a leader of Memphis Community Against the Pipeline (MCAP) which is a Black-led environmental justice organization seeking to end environmental racism and injustice in Memphis. Justin J. Pearson has an unwavering commitment to justice and the pursuit of opportunity for all people.

Kizzy Jones Speaker Biography:
Kizzy Jones was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee. Kizzy graduated from Southwest Memphis’ own Mitchell High School in 1996. She then attended Lane College and later graduated with a master’s degree in Business Administration from Strayer University with Honors. Now, Kizzy is seeking a second master’s degree in Social Work. Earlier in her career, she entered the United States Air Force and served nearly 13 years active duty, and she is currently serving in the Air National Guard as a Security Forces member.

Kizzy comes from a Christian background and beliefs. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself” (22:37-39). This verse is what motivated Kizzy to become a young activist in Southwest Memphis and fight the Byhalia Pipeline alongside her community. She decided to come home and work in the community because her motto as an Airman and a civilian is to never leave anyone behind. She uses her resources to help those who have helped her along the way. She is a co-founder of Memphis Community Against the Pipeline (MCAP) and a proud advocate for the people of Southwest Memphis.

Session Description:
The Byhalia Connection Pipeline was a proposed crude oil pipeline from the Valero Refinery in Shelby County, Tennessee to the Valero Collierville Terminal Facility in Marshall County, Mississippi. The joint venture operation between Texas-based Plains All American Pipeline and Valero Energy Corporation
planned to build a 49-mile route between the Valero Memphis Refinery and the Valero Collierville in Marshall County Mississippi to transport crude oil.

More specifically, 7 miles of this pipeline was scheduled to be built in Memphis, crossing a resilient black community called Boxtown. Boxtown abuts T.O. Fuller State Park to the south and east. To get there from downtown, you drive south on Florida Street until it becomes New Horn Lake Road, then take a right on Mitchell. Boxtown began as a community of emancipated slaves and freedmen shortly after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, and it existed as part of Shelby County, on the edge of Memphis city limits, until the early 1960s. Boxtown is so named because the houses looked like boxcars, which were built from the trains. Many residents opened grocery stores. The most notable grocer in Boxtown was S.L. Jones (1914–1991), who opened a grocery store at the corner of Sewanee Road and Fields Road. He later opened Jones Big Star on McLemore Avenue.

The biggest threats to the Boxtown Community and other low-income communities regarding the pipeline was eminent domain, which would have potentially allowed Plains and Valero to use the land of residents to make billions of dollars, while providing minimal financial impact for this low-income community. Additional threats are the State of Tennessee’s ARAP (Aquatic Resource Alteration Permit) which is granted by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). This permit is needed for projects attempting to cross Tennessee waters. Lastly, the NPW-12 (Nationwide permit 12) permit is a federal permit which authorizes activity, including the construction, maintenance or repair of crude oil pipelines crossing waters of the United States.

It can be argued that the three biggest threats and dangers to low-income and indigenous communities in Tennessee are those mentioned above. Unsafe environments are a health hazard to residents and prohibit the necessary growth to keep communities thriving economically as companies are less likely to select these communities for employment opportunities.
Session 4 – KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Time: 12:15 PM-1:15 PM
No CLE Credit
Presenter: Alejandra Nunez

Speaker Biography:
Alejandra Nunez is the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Mobile Sources, Office of Air and Radiation at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Prior to being appointed to her current position at the EPA, she served as a senior attorney at the Sierra Club’s Environmental Law Program, where her work focused on litigation and regulatory advocacy on federal greenhouse gas and corporate average fuel economy standards for light- and heavy-duty vehicles, carbon dioxide standards for new and existing power plants, state transportation and clean energy policies, and the integration of environmental justice in climate policy.

Before the Sierra Club, Deputy Assistant Administrator Nunez worked as associate counsel at the World Bank’s Legal Vice Presidency, advising on public-private partnerships in the energy and water infrastructure sectors. She was also an associate at Morrison & Foerster, representing clients on public trust issues, carbon sequestration projects, and conservation easements, and she taught courses at the Washington College of Law at the American University in Washington, D.C. Deputy Assistant Administrator Nunez holds Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D.) and Masters of Law (LL.M.) degrees from Harvard Law School, and a law degree (LL.B.) from the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México. During her studies, she worked at UNESCO’s World Water Assessment Programme in Paris and was also a research fellow at Stanford University’s Program on Energy and Sustainable Development.

Session Description:
Deputy Assistant Administrator Nunez will (1) discuss her experiences in the Sierra Club and in her current position, (2) share her thoughts about what she believes to be the challenges ahead for future lawyers and activists, (3) offer advice for those entering the field and for those who have been in it for the long-term, and (4) present other relevant content.
Session 5 – It Takes a Village: Protecting the Memphis Sand Aquifer

Time: 1:15 PM-2:15 PM
1 General Credit
Presenter: Sarah Houston

Speaker Biography:
Sarah Houston has been pedaling a passion for water in the academic, corporate and nonprofit sectors for over 10 years. Water is a resource that spans every aspect of our lives and touches many disciplines. After graduating from Southwestern University with a BA in Political Science, Houston started her career at global PR firm Hill + Knowlton Strategies in Washington, DC. She grew increasingly aware of the water resource issues affecting her home state of Texas and moved back to take a job at the Colorado River Alliance to manage water science programs for K-12 students. In 2016, Houston and her husband quit their jobs to adventure with a purpose. Through Wander Like Water, they used bicycle touring to connect YouTube viewers with water sources. The project caught on quickly and their audience spans 50 countries with over a half million views. Memphis became their home in 2018 when Houston came to work for University of Memphis-CAESER as the associate director of education and outreach. Houston worked with the primary technical experts in the Mississippi v. Tennessee Supreme Court case. When Protect Our Aquifer began their first ever executive director search, Houston was chosen for the position and has been involved in numerous lawsuits to strengthen environmental and water laws in Tennessee. Houston supports proactive management to ensure the sustainability of the water supply. She is pursuing a Master’s of Science in Earth Sciences from UofM and spends her free time outdoors, biking, kayaking, and exploring West Tennessee.

Session Description:
Mississippi v. Tennessee is a landmark Supreme Court case for many reasons. The water source in question is an underground aquifer that spans eight U.S. states and provides drinking water to millions of Americans. An overview of the Mid-South’s hydrology, the SCOTUS lawsuit, its current status, and potential repercussions will be discussed. This case sets the stage for the necessity to pull together stakeholders from around the region to determine the best way to manage the massive aquifer in the Mid-South. The current legal work led by Protect Our Aquifer, Southern Environmental Law Center, Memphis Community Against Pollution, and the Sierra Club will provide an insight into local ordinances and long-term legal strategies we are pursuing to protect our water resources for generations to come.
Session 6 – Ethical Issues in the Practice of Environmental Law: A Case Study Review

Time: 2:30 PM-3:30 PM

1 Dual Credit
Panelists: Dean Rivkin, Zygmunt J. B. Plater, Patrick A. Parenteau, Achinthi C. Vithanage, Michele Okoh, & Becky Jacobs

Dean Rivkin Panelist Biography:
Professor Dean Rivkin is a Professor of Law Emeritus at the University of Tennessee College of Law. He is an advocate for the rights of children and families, a protector of the environment, and a supporter of public interest law. Professor Rivkin has been counsel in public interest litigation concerning such issues as air pollution and TVA, a challenge to the Tennessee Barratry Statute, the defense of the Tennessee Surface Owner Protection Act, the rights of children in special education, and the right to education for students who are expelled from school. He was a member of the Southern Appalachian Mountain Initiative, a comprehensive effort to combat the adverse effects of air pollution on the national parks and wilderness areas in the Southeast. During 2004, he also has lectured on environmental law at four universities in China. Since 2000, Professor Rivkin has served as Director of the AALS Equal Justice Project and as a member of the AALS Membership Review Committee. Professor Rivkin served as a visiting professor at the UCLA Law School, the University of Maryland Law School, American University Washington College of Law, and, in 2002 and 2004, at Harvard Law School.

Zygmunt J. B. Plater Panelist Biography:
Zygmunt J. B. Plater is a Professor of Law at Boston College Law School and has been actively involved in a number of ground-breaking issues of environmental protection and land use regulation, including service as petitioner and lead counsel in the extended endangered species litigation over the Tennessee Valley Authority’s Tellico Dam, representing the endangered snail darter, farmers, Cherokee Indians, and environmentalists in the Supreme Court of the United States, federal agencies, and congressional hearings. His book The Snail Darter and the Dam -- the Story of a Small Endangered Fish’s Travels through the Corridors of American Power – is being made into a documentary film series. Professor Plater was chairman of the Alaska Oil Spill Commission’s M/V Exxon-Valdez Legal Task Force; was a consultant on responses to the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill; and was a consultant to plaintiffs in the Woburn litigation described and depicted in the book and movie A Civil Action. While teaching in Ethiopia, Professor Plater redrafted the laws protecting parks and refuges, assisted in publication of the Consolidated Laws of Ethiopia, and helped organize the first United Nations Conference on Individual Rights in Africa. Several of Professor Plater’s articles have been cited in U.S. Supreme Court opinions, and, in 2019, he received the ABA’s Award for Excellence in Environmental, Energy, and Resources Stewardship, and the Kravchenko Environmental Human Rights Award.

Patrick A. Parenteau Panelist Biography:
Patrick A. Parenteau is a Professor of Law and the Senior Counsel in the Environmental Advocacy Clinic at Vermont Law School. Professor Parenteau has been involved in drafting, litigating, implementing, teaching, and writing about environmental law and policy and natural resources law for over three decades. His previous positions include Vice President for Conservation with the National Wildlife Federation in Washington, DC (1976-1984); Regional Counsel to the New England Regional Office of the EPA in Boston (1984-1987); Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (1987-1989); and Senior Counsel with the Perkins Coie law firm in Portland, Oregon (1989-1993). Professor Parenteau is a Fulbright US Scholar and a Fellow in the American College of Environmental Lawyers. In 2005, he received the National Wildlife Federation’s Conservation Achievement Award in recognition of his contributions to wildlife conservation and environmental education. He received the Kerry Rydberg Award in 2016 for excellence in public interest environmental law.
Achinthi C. Vithanage Panelist Biography:
Achinthi Vithanage recently joined the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University as the Associate Director of Environmental Law Programs and Adjunct Professor. Prior to this she was a Visiting Associate Professor and Environmental and Energy Law Fellow at the George Washington University Law School, where she taught international environmental law and environmental lawyering. She has been the Co-Chair of ABA SEER's International Environmental & Resources Law (IERL) Committee since 2020. Her interest in international environmental law and energy law and policy began early in her tertiary studies, through employment at the NSW Energy & Water Ombudsman, a government-approved industry-based independent body which monitors the state’s water and energy industries. Following admission as a solicitor, she practiced for several years in corporate legal practice in Sydney, Australia while also Chairing the NSW Young Lawyers’ International Law Committee. Professor Vithanage has acquired a wealth of environmental law experience since her arrival in the United States, including undertaking the United Nations practicum on environmental diplomacy at the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka as well as producing numerous publications and presenting at conferences and programs both nationally and internationally on a range of topics in environmental law. Most recently, she was recognized in LawDragon’s 500 Leading Environmental and Energy Lawyers 2021 Guide and is an originating member of the International Association of Energy Law, a global network of early career energy law professors. In her spare time, she is pursuing a Doctorate degree at GW Law under the Randolph C. Shaw Graduate Fellowship in Administrative Law.

Michele Okoh Panelist Biography:
Michele Okoh is a senior lecturing fellow in the Environmental Law and Policy Clinic at Duke University School of Law. Her work focuses primarily on environmental justice, administrative law, and public health law. In the clinic, Okoh supervises students on environmental law cases and teaches sessions on environmental justice and administrative law. She also teaches a course on environmental justice that is open to all law students. Professor Okoh’s research interests lie at the intersection of environmental justice and public health. She draws upon theories across disciplines in addressing legal issues and views environmental justice through a health equity lens. Professor Okoh currently serves as the section councilor for the Environmental Section of the American Public Health Association and is on the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Section Council for the North Carolina Bar Association. She has extensive professional legal experience, including expertise in environmental law and health care law.

Becky Jacobs Moderator Biography:
Becky Jacobs is the Waller Lansden Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Tennessee College of Law. Professor Jacobs has extensive experience in the areas of environmental, energy, transactional, and administrative/regulatory law and has published numerous articles and presented frequently on environmentally-related topics. She also is on the University of Tennessee’s Watershed Minor Committee and is one of the organizing members of the Baker Center Energy and Environment Forum at the University of Tennessee, a speaker series designed for academics to share their research with a broad set of academics, researchers, and students from outside their own discipline who have a common interest in environmental- and energy-related issues. She has served as an advisor to several environmental non-profits and is part of the research teams of several grants focused on sustainable agriculture and organic waste.
Session Description:

The practice of environmental law can be fraught with ethical dilemmas for even the most principled lawyer. This session, led by Professors Dean Rivkin (Tennessee), Zygmunt J. B. Plater (Boston College), Patrick A. Parenteau (Vermont), Achinthi Vithanage (Pace), Michele Okoh (Duke), and Professor Becky Jacobs (Tennessee), will consider how these dilemmas arise in the context of several very high-profile cases, including that of Steven Donziger, the New York attorney battling to save his professional reputation as a result of his work on the Ecuadorian Lago Agrio oil field case. Other case studies include that of the lawyers in the Anderson et al. v. W.R. Grace et al. contaminated groundwater case in Woburn, Massachusetts made famous in the book and movie The Civil Action; that of Rob Bilott in the case against DuPont that inspired the movie Dark Waters; as well as other weighty matters.
Session 7 – Lobbying for Justice

Time: 3:30 PM-4:30 PM
1 General Credit
Presenters: Grace Stranch & Scott Banbury

Grace Stranch Speaker Biography:
Grace Stranch is the COO and Vice President of Conservation and Policy at the Harpeth River Conservancy. Prior to joining the Conservancy, she practiced law at Branstetter, Stranch & Jennings, PLLC with a concentration primarily in class actions and union representation. Notably, she worked on the Volkswagen class action about the emission defeat device. The Tennessee Supreme Court recognized her pro bono work by naming her an Attorney for Justice in 2018, 2019 and 2020. Grace cochairs the Tennessee Bar Association’s Committee for Racial and Ethnic Diversity and is on the Diversity Committee for the Nashville Bar Association. She was the founding member of the American Constitution Society Knoxville Lawyer’s Chapter, is a current Next Generation leader, and the current President of the Nashville American Constitution Society Chapter. Grace has engaged in environmental work across the world and has over 15 years of experience organizing around environmental issues in Tennessee. Specifically, she sits as the Vice Chair for the Middle Tennessee Group of the Sierra Club and is the Tennessee Lead for the Environmental Defense Fund. Through United Mountain Defense, she was a lead organizer for APIEL for seven years. Based on her significant community involvement, Grace was honored with the 2020 Athena Young Professional Award and Metro Council Resolution RS220-457.

Scott Banbury Speaker Biography:
Scott Banbury is the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club’s Conservation Program Coordinator. In this role, he works with and organizes communities across Tennessee as they work to protect the natural resources and quality of life in their communities. Scott is also the registered lobbyist for the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club. Scott started working on environmental issues when he was 15 years old and has spent the subsequent 30+ years immersed in urban environmental justice, water and air quality, rural resource extraction, voting rights, and open government issues. Scott has helped form and grow numerous local and regional organizations, including the Tennessee Clean Water Network, Tennessee Forest Council, Frack-Free Tennessee, Protect Our Aquifer and the Dogwood Alliance. He lives in McMinnville, TN on the banks of the beautiful Collins River.

Session Description:
Many lawyers, whether as members of a lobbying firm, law firm, advocacy group, trade associations company, or state and local governments, take part in some form of lobbying. Grace and Scott will provide an overview of the most successful strategies lawyers and activists may employ in order to effectively influence environmental policy decisions and laws in Appalachia and environmental justice communities in the Southeastern United States. Special attention will be given to how these tactics and methods are used in Tennessee.
Session 8 – Tennessee’s Water Quality Control Act At Age Fifty

Time: 4:45 PM-5:45 PM
1 General Credit
Presenter: Paul Davis

Speaker Biography:
Since 2012, Paul Davis has taught implementation and enforcement of federal and state clean water programs through National Stormwater Center. He has taught well over 150 two-day in-person classes from New Mexico to Maine and a number of on-line webinars. Paul Davis is an active member of the Tennessee Stormwater Association and the Water Environment Federation. He volunteers with environmental and conservation groups, serves on the board of Cumberland River Compact and advises MS4s.

From 1974 through 2012, Paul Davis was employed at the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation, Division of Water Pollution Control, where he was division director and technical secretary to the Tennessee Water Quality Control Board from 1988 until 2012. Paul Davis represented Tennessee in the national organization of state water directors for over 25 years, serving 3 terms on its board and on the organization’s executive committee. He had special assignments in the areas of interstate water quality and quantity, Mississippi River conservation, drought and flood response, TVA Kingston ash spill.

Paul Davis holds a BS in Engineering Science and an MS in Water Resources from the University of Tennessee. He is licensed to practice environmental engineering in Tennessee. Paul Davis shares a house on Old Hickory Lake with a wife and a pair of lab-mix rescue pooches. He swims with a US Masters group and has won several freestyle events in regional meets and Tennessee’s Senior Olympics.

Session Description:
2021 is the 50-year anniversary of Tennessee’s Water Quality Control Act. Paul Davis will get into some of the history, where did it come from, and how it was reported in law journals. Then he will review how special interest legislation has narrowed applicability, exempted sources and constricted the agency over the years.