



Arkansas Environmental Policy Summit 2017

Clinton Presidential Library
1200 President Clinton Ave.
Little Rock, Arkansas
October 27, 2017
9am - 4pm

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2nd Annual Arkansas Environmental Policy Summit

Friday, October 27, 2017

Clinton Presidential Center

Opening Remarks: Emily Kearns

Welcome: Skip Rutherford, Dean, Clinton School of Public Service

Morning Plenary: (9:00-10:15)

Great Room - Presidential Center

Overview of Changes in U.S. Environmental Policy in the Trump Administration

Hear what environmental policy changes have taken effect since inauguration day and what changes are underway. Glen Hooks, Director of the Arkansas Chapter of Sierra Club will provide a general overview on national environmental policies and insights on the impacts of these changes.

Glen Hooks, Director, Arkansas Chapter of Sierra Club

Morning Breakout Sessions (10:30-11:30)

Changes in National Environmental Regulations and Policies: What They Mean for Arkansas

Great Room - Presidential Center

A panel of experts will take a closer look at the changes presented in the opening session and provide analysis on how the recent changes in national environmental regulations and policies impact Arkansas.

Al Armendariz, Deputy Regional Director, Sierra Club- Beyond Coal Campaign

Becky Keogh, Director, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality

Sarah Adams-Schoen, Associate Professor of Law, UALR Bowen School of Law

Moderator: Richard Mays

Leading the Way at the Local Level

Commons Room - School of Public Service

Panelist will highlight work being done in municipalities, watersheds and electric coop territories around the state and region to enhance and protect our natural resources.

Johnson Bridgwater Director, Oklahoma Chapter of Sierra Club

Mark Cayce , General Manager, Ouachita Electric Cooperative

Jessie Green Waterkeeper & Executive Director, White River Waterkeeper

Moderator: Glen Hooks

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Lunch with Keynote Speaker (11:45-1:00)

Great Room - Presidential Center

Announcement from Arkansas Environmental Defense Alliance

Al Armendariz - Deputy Regional Director, Sierra Club- Beyond Coal Campaign

Afternoon Breakout Session (1:15-2:15)

When The Well Runs Dry: The Depletion of Aquifers in Arkansas, The Consequences, and Alternatives

Classroom - School of Public Service

The 2014 Arkansas Water Plan states that “as a result of over a century of agricultural reliance on groundwater for crop irrigation, the water levels in these aquifers have been declining and our projections suggest that by 2050, there will be demand for about 7 million AFY of groundwater that cannot be met with groundwater supplies in eastern Arkansas.” Panelist will discuss the challenges Arkansas faces and how these challenges are being addressed.

Jim Battreal, P.G., Geology Supervisor, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission

Robert Reynolds, Professional Engineer, Shuler Drilling Company; Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commissioner

Neal Galloway, Owner, Galloway Equipment

Moderator: Anna Weeks

Animal Feeding Operations: What Do They Mean For The Arkansas Environment?

Commons Room - School of Public Service

Concentrated or confined animal feeding operations are a subset of livestock and poultry animal feeding operations that meet the regulatory thresholds of number of animals kept and raised in confined areas. These operations generate significant volumes of animal waste, which can produce a host of health and environmental risks. Learn from panelists about the impact of CAFOs in other states, what policies could protect public and environmental health, and a small farmer’s viewpoint on these large operations.

Stephen Jeffery, Environmental Attorney, Jeffery Law Group, LLC

Don Richardson, Chairman, Arkansas Natural Resource Commission

Gordon Watkins, Director, Buffalo River Watershed Alliance

Moderator: Sam Cooke

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Solar in the Natural State

Great Room - Presidential Center

In 2016 Arkansas was ranked 45th in the nation in installed solar. However with a 64% decline in the price of solar over the past five years Arkansas is beginning to see a plethora of new solar investments. Hear what projects and policies are currently underway and the future of solar in the Natural State.

Bill Halter, CEO, Scenic Hill Solar

Wesley Hunt, Senior Counsel, Entergy Arkansas, INC

Katie Laning Niebaum, Executive Director, Arkansas Advanced Energy Association

Jim Whitson, PE, CEM Director, Projects L'Oreal USA

Moderator: Gary Moody

Afternoon Plenary (2:30-3:30)

Climate Change: A Local Perspective

Great Room - Presidential Center

Climate change is happening. What is the current impact on our region and what can we expect for the future? National and local experts will examine the impacts of climate change on our natural resources and communities and discuss mitigation and adaption strategies to deal with our changing climate.

Mike Borengasser, CFM, State Climatologist, Arkansas Natural Resource Commission

Dr. Allen Burton, Professor, University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability

Robert McAfee, Climatologist and Environmental Leader

Gerald Cound, Executive Director, Village Commons

Moderator: Richard Mason

Closing remarks: Anna Weeks

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Keynote: Al Armendariz, Ph.D.
Deputy Regional Director
Sierra Club - Beyond Coal Campaign

Al Armendariz is a Deputy Regional Director of the Sierra Club's historic Beyond Coal Campaign, directing the work to end of the use of coal and ramp up renewable energy in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma.

Prior to joining Sierra Club, Al was the Regional Administrator for the South Central part of the country for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, appointed by President Obama in 2009. Al came to his position in government after 7 years on the faculty of the School of Engineering at Southern Methodist University (SMU), in Dallas, and after graduate work in public health and environmental engineering at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of Florida. Al received his undergraduate degree in chemical engineering from MIT, and he worked for several years as a consultant for natural gas, pulp and paper, and wood products companies.

Over the last several years the Beyond Coal effort has had iconic success in Al's states, including leading the charge that led to Austin Energy, one of the largest city-owned utilities in the country, adopting a plan to get out of coal and be 75% carbon free by 2023. Over the last 5 years, utilities like American Electric Power, Oklahoma Gas and Electric, and GRDA have committed to shutting down the majority of the Oklahoma's coal generation and to make large investments in renewable energy in response to environmental efforts by Sierra Club and allies. Al has also overseen the fight in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana to keep out-of-state coal companies from building near the historic African American riverside town of Ironton a new coal export terminal to serve overseas markets. Recent court victories to help protect Ironton give us optimism that the fight is nearly won.

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Sarah Adam- Schoen
Associate Professor of Law
UALR Bowen School of Law

Professor Adams-Schoen brings to her teaching a love of the theory and practice of law, grounded in more than a decade of law practice experience. After receiving a Master's in Public Policy at the London School of Economics, Professor Adams-Schoen worked as a senior policy analyst for Portland, Oregon's Metro Regional Government, where she continued to work while earning her J.D. Upon graduation, she worked as a civil and regulatory litigator at a large West Coast firm, gaining environmental, energy, regulatory, and administrative law experience, and managing the firm's pro bono night clinic. She then transitioned to one of Oregon's top criminal defense firms, where she handled complex environmental and other state and federal white collar cases. Professor Adams-Schoen's research currently focuses on environmental sustainability and learning theory. She also participates in the Environmental Law Collaborative (ELC), a group of environmental law scholars who meet semi-annually to address pressing environmental concerns. She is admitted to the Oregon State Bar and the Federal Bar for the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon, and is a member of the American Bar Association. She serves as the Vice Chair of the Land Use Committee of the State and Local Government Law Section and as the Section's liaison to the ABA's Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.

James L. Battreal P.G.
Geology Supervisor
Arkansas Natural Resources Commission

James has been Arkansas Natural Resource Commission (ANRC) employee for 17 years and is a registered Professional Geologist in Arkansas. He is ANRC's Geology Supervisor, supervises the Groundwater Section, and is responsible for data collection for, and production of ANRC's Annual Groundwater Management and Protection Report. He supervises the licensing of all contractors, drillers, and pump installers in Arkansas for the Arkansas Water Well Construction Commission (AWWCC).

Johnson Bridgwater
Director
Oklahoma Chapter of Sierra Club

With a Bachelors Degree in writing and graduate coursework in landscape architecture, Johnson Bridgwater currently serves as the Director of Oklahoma Sierra Club. He has a diverse work history including working for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation as a Federal Programs Manager, working for the Oklahoma City Zoo as a Horticulturist and Educator, and throughout this time and before he has been involved in landscaping projects and field conservation projects

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via the 501c3 non-profit he helped found called WildShare International. Some of Johnson's more interesting career highlights include securing funding and establishing an orchid conservation program in the El Cielo Biosphere in northeastern Mexico, overseeing the creation of a Prairie Recreation Project with Girl Scouts of America, conducting field research for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, and serving as the assistant to the program manager for the OKC Community Foundation's Clean and Beautiful Schools Initiative.

Mike Borengasser
CFM, State Climatologist
Arkansas Natural Resource Commission

In 2008 Governor Mike Beebe appointed the Arkansas Natural Resource Commission to be the Office of the State Climatologist. The purpose of the State Climatologist is to provide information on weather and climate to citizens of the state. Michael Borengasser has since served as the State Climatologist. He holds a B.A. in Mathematics and M.A in Geography from the University of Arkansas and an A.B.D. in Physical Geography from Louisiana State University. He is a member of the Association of State Floodplain Managers, the Association of State Dam Safety Officials, Arkansas Floodplain Management Association and the Association of State Climatologists.

Dr. Allen Burton
Professor
University of Michigan

Allen Burton, PhD, is a Professor at SEAS and the Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences. He has an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Roskilde (Denmark), is a Concurrent Professor at Nanjing University, and an Honorary Professor at the State Key Laboratory of Environmental Criteria and Risk Assessment in Beijing China.

His research on ecological risk assessment, sediment quality criteria, and aquatic ecosystem stressors has taken him to all seven continents with Visiting Scientist positions in New Zealand, Italy and Portugal. His research focuses on sediment and stormwater contaminants and understanding bioavailability processes, effects and ecological risk at multiple trophic levels, and ranking stressor importance in human dominated watersheds. He has received over ten million dollars in extramural research funding.

He is a Fellow of the international Society of Environmental Toxicology & Chemistry (SETAC) and was a Distinguished Faculty Fellow of the Graham Sustainability Institute. He served as Director of the University of Michigan Water Center and also their Cooperative Institute of Limnology and Ecosystems Research. He is Editor-in-Chief of the journal, Environmental Toxicology & Chemistry,

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past president of SETAC, and served on numerous national and international panels and Advisory Boards with over 180 peer-reviewed publications on aquatic ecosystem risk issues.

Mark Cayce
General Manager
Ouachita Electric Cooperative

Over 39 years of experience in the electric utility industry. Graduated from the University of North Texas with a BBA, 15 years with Texas Utilities specializing in energy efficiency, customer service and local management. Over 10 years with Jackson Electric Cooperative in South Texas serving as Operations Manager. General Manager and CEO for Ouachita Electric Cooperative headquartered in Camden Arkansas since January of 2002. Presently serving as Chairman of Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Incorporated, Chairman of Today's Power Inc. TPI is a wholly owned subsidiary of Arkansas Electric Cooperative Inc. a new startup designed to provide solar services and products to electric cooperatives. Ouachita Electric Cooperative was recently recognized by the Smart Electric Power Alliance for one of its Power Player Awards, 2017 Electric Cooperative of the Year.

Neal Galloway
Owner
Galloway Equipment

Mr. Galloway has 24 years of experience owning and operating a farming corporation and managing two other farming corporations in Stuttgart, Arkansas. He holds a Bachelor Degree in Agriculture Business from the University of Arkansas and received his Farm Management Accreditation from the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers.

Jessie Green
Waterkeeper & Executive Director
White River Waterkeeper

Since childhood, Jessie Green has had a passion for waterways and the biota inhabiting them. While earning her B.S. in Biology (emphasis on Environmental Biology) from Arkansas State University, Jessie served as a field and lab technician researching freshwater mussels. Her M.S. in Biology (emphasis in Aquatic Ecology) from the University of Central Arkansas focused on effects of natural gas development on fishes of the Fayetteville Shale.

As a former Senior Ecologist in the Office of Water Quality at Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), Jessie gained invaluable knowledge and understanding of water quality issues affecting the state of Arkansas. While at ADEQ, she focused on developing standard oper-

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ating procedures for biological surveys, researching appropriate means of defining least-disturbed condition, study design for the development of numeric nutrient criteria, and providing environmental review of NPDES permit applications.

In her newly appointed position as the White River Waterkeeper, Jessie will work to protect and preserve the White River and its' tributaries by combining her firsthand knowledge of aquatic ecology and the waterway with an unwavering commitment to the rights of the community and the rule of law.

Bill Halter

CEO

Scenic Hill Solar

Bill Halter has led business and government organizations in Arkansas and Washington, DC having served as Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas, Chief Operating Officer of the Social Security Administration, in the White House Budget Office, as a Trustee of Stanford University and on the Board of Directors of twelve technology companies (five of which were public companies with a market capitalization of over \$20 billion).

Glen Hooks

Director

Arkansas Chapter of Sierra Club

Glen Hooks has served in various roles for the national and state Sierra Club for almost 15 years, and currently is in his fourth year as Director of the Sierra Club's Arkansas Chapter. Prior to joining Sierra Club, Glen served as Executive Director of the Democratic Party of Arkansas, as a lawyer in private and public practice, as a campaign manager for numerous successful candidates and causes, and as a lobbyist for several progressive nonprofits. He is a graduate of Hendrix College and the UALR School Of Law.

Glen lives in North Little Rock, and is the father of the two greatest sons in the history of sons.

N. Wesley Hunt

Senior Counsel

Entergy Arkansas, Inc.

A native of Fordyce, Arkansas and proud "Redbug," Wesley attended the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville where he graduated summa cum laude with a BA in History, focusing on African-American Studies and Civil Rights. During his senior year, one of the better decisions Wesley

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made was to extend a summer internship into the Fall of 2004 in order to continue working closely with Clinton Foundation leadership on the Grand Opening of the Clinton Presidential Center and Park. He subsequently earned a Juris Doctor and Master of Business Administration from the University of Arkansas in Little Rock.

Wesley previously served on the Little Rock Racial & Cultural Diversity Commission and the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission. He also is a graduate of Leadership Greater Little Rock Class XXVII.

In his current position as Senior Counsel for Entergy Arkansas, Wesley appears frequently before the Arkansas Public Service Commission on a wide-range of regulatory matters. He is the lead attorney on Entergy's annual Formula Rate Plan filings, all transmission siting and certification cases requiring Commission approval, and the pending Net-Metering Rulemaking docket implementing the revisions to the Arkansas Renewable Energy Development Act that came about as a result of Act 827 of 2015.

Wesley spends his free time coaching youth soccer and pursuing a passion for long-distance ultra running. Earlier this month, he won the Arkansas Traveller 100 Mile Race for the fourth consecutive year.

Wesley is a member of Trinity United Methodist Church, which he attends with his wife, Diana, and three children, Max, Sophia, and Evan.

Stephen Jeffery
Environmental Attorney
Jeffery Law Group, LLC

Steve Jeffery has 30 years of experience in environmental law and litigation matters. Formerly a partner at a top tier St. Louis law firm, Steve founded the Jeffery Law Group, LLC in 2011, and his practice includes environmental litigation, regulatory compliance, and transactional matters, as well as representation before State and Federal regulatory agencies. From 1987 to 1993, Steve served as the General Counsel for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, where he was responsible for legal review of policy, legislative, enforcement and regulatory issues.

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Becky Keogh
Director

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality

Becky Keogh has served as the Director of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) since 2015. She has been engaged in a unique range of technical and managerial roles across government, private industry, and environmental consulting throughout her career. Director Keogh previously held positions as a Vice President and Senior Consultant for an international environmental and engineering firm. She served as Deputy Director of ADEQ from 1996–2006. She was subsequently appointed to serve on the Arkansas Geological Commission from 2006–2009. Immediately prior to her appointment by Governor Asa Hutchinson as ADEQ Director, she was employed in an environmental and regulatory management role for an international resources corporation.

Director Keogh has been an active member and alumni member of the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) since 1997. A well-respected leader among her counterparts in other states, she was elected by her peers as one of only four officers for ECOS. Additionally, as Director, she testified on behalf of the rights of states before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in 2016—specifically noting the atmosphere of coercive federalism at the time between states and the EPA. In the spring of 2017, Director Keogh testified on the expanding roles of states under EPA's new administration before the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

An Arkansas native, Director Keogh has a degree in chemical engineering from the University of Arkansas. She is married, has three children, and has four grandchildren.

Katie Laning Niebaum
Executive Director

Arkansas Advanced Energy Association

Katie Laning Niebaum brings more than a dozen years of strategic communications, media relations and public affairs expertise from her leadership roles on Capitol Hill and at one of the nation's largest business trade associations. As executive director of the Arkansas Advanced Energy Association and its educational affiliate, the Arkansas Advanced Energy Foundation, Niebaum leads efforts to promote Arkansas's growing advanced energy industry. Previously, she spent more than five years at the National Restaurant Association, most recently serving as vice president of communications and media relations advancing policy and business priorities for the \$780 billion restaurant and foodservice industry. Niebaum spent more than seven years in the office of U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln where she rose to communications director in 2008. In that capacity, she acted as a senior advisor, chief communications strategist and spokesperson. Niebaum is a Little Rock native and a graduate of the University of Virginia.

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Robert McAfee

Climatologist and Environmental Leader

From Hackett, AR, Robert has been engaged in environmental education with emphasis on climate change since 1976 when he completed graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin. McAfee taught climatology at Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia.

Time is of the essence. We have perhaps a decade to really make a difference in halting global warming to a level that will avoid global catastrophe. While serving in the Peace Corps in Mali he saw firsthand the devastating effects of climate change and thus inspired his future life work. He now works with the Arkansas Citizens' Climate Lobby. Their policy of a revenue neutral carbon fee and dividend policy is fair, simple and returns money to all Americans. It creates jobs, grows the economy, improves health and significantly reduces CO2 emissions. This is done without regulations through free market actions.

Robert is a member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). He serves on the Board of the Hackett Public School Education Foundation, and Treasurer for the Arkansas Citizens Climate Lobby. He is currently Chair of the Environmental Caucus of the Arkansas Citizens First Congress.

Don Richardson

Chairman

Arkansas Natural Resource Commission

Don Richardson has had a 40-year career of involvement including on-the-ground conservation and agriculture policy, environmental advocacy and politics. After returning from Vietnam in 1972, Richardson worked for the Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology (now ADEQ0) while finishing his B.S. in Environmental Health at UALR. He then attended graduate school at the University of Washington on an EPA Fellowship. Mr. Richardson was the Executive Director of the Arkansas Federation of Water and Air Users (now Arkansas Environmental Federation) from July of 1976 to March of 1979. For nine years Mr. Richardson was the Executive Vice President of the Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts. He represented and advocated for the 75 Conservation Districts in Arkansas. In 1990, Mr. Richardson (Mayor of Clinton, Arkansas) was appointed by the Bush administration to a 3-year term on the EPA's National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy representing small cities and towns. In 1998, Mr. Richardson became a Clinton Administration Schedule C political appointee at USDA as Confidential Assistant to the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service where he worked on agricultural policy matters with the Chief and the Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment. After returning to Arkansas, Mr. Richardson worked as a field officer for the Pew Charitable Trusts where he was a liaison to USDA and worked to accelerate clean energy solutions that improve the economy, national security and the environment. At home, in Clinton, Arkansas, Mr. Richardson, among

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other interest serves on the Van Buren County Conservation District Board and the Arkansas Natural Resource Commission, where he currently serves as the Chairman. In 2013, after retiring from Pew, Richardson began a consulting business, Verdant Solutions, LLC, focusing on agriculture, conservation, environment and economic development. In 2016, Richardson and a business partner incorporated a new company that is developing a solar powered insect control device, called SolaRid™. Mr. Richardson is President of the company.

Robert Reynolds
Professional Engineer
Shuler Drilling Company

Mr. Reynolds was born and raised in El Dorado, Arkansas. He received a B.S and MBA from University of Tulsa and a B.S. from Louisiana Tech University. Since 1979 he has worked for Shuler Drilling Company, Inc. an independent oil and gas producer, in the design permitting, drilling, supervision, completion, workover, electric log analysis, coring, drill stem testing, evaluation, and/or operation of over 2,100 oil, gas, saltwater disposal, and waterflood injection wells in Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. He served on the Union County Water Conservation Board from 199-2015, is very active in his community and serves on the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission.

Gordon Watkins
Director
Buffalo River Watershed Alliance

Gordon grew up in Mississippi, began visiting the Ozarks in the late '60s and quickly fell in love with the Buffalo River country. In 1973 he purchased land in Newton County, on the banks of the Little Buffalo River, and upon graduation from Rhodes College and marriage to his wife Susan, they moved there permanently in 1977 as part of the back-to-the-land movement. Gardening for self-sufficiency grew into full time farming and in 1980, with the establishment of Rivendell Gardens, they became one of the first certified organic farms in Arkansas. Blueberries were their flagship product and they shipped 40-50,000 lbs annually to health food stores nationwide, including to Whole Foods' first store in Austin, TX. The Watkins also produced and shipped various other small fruits and vegetables, as well as grass-finished beef, and pastured pork and poultry. Gordon co-founded and directed the Ozark Organic Growers Association, a marketing cooperative, Ozark Small Farm Viability Project, a farmer-to-farmer technical assistance project, and FORGE, a micro lender for small farmers. Gordon and Susan and their two sons were chosen as Newton County Farm Family of the year in 1986.

In 2013, Gordon helped co-found and is current president of the Buffalo River Watershed Alliance

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(BRWA), a non-profit organization created in response to the permitting of a 6,500-head swine CAFO located near Mt Judea, AR on Big Creek, one of the largest tributaries of the Buffalo National River. In August, 2012, the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality quietly approved this facility, the first of its size and type in the state, without local public notice, and it wasn't until December of that year, when the facility was near completion, that the National Park Service discovered its presence and the public became aware of this serious threat to the Buffalo. Many were shocked and concerned that the state had allowed such a risky facility to be constructed near the iconic Buffalo National River, and BRWA was created as a result. BRWA currently has over 3,000 supporters and over 13,000 online followers and, through legal actions, public policy, public education and other means, is actively engaged in seeking closure of this facility and in establishing a permanent moratorium on permits for any future CAFOs in the Buffalo watershed.

As someone who has farmed in the Buffalo River watershed for 40 years (including growing pigs), and one who deeply appreciates the pristine beauty of the Buffalo and has a vested interest in its vitality as an economic engine in a poor corner of the state with few opportunities, Gordon brings a unique perspective to the threats posed by CAFOs located in such fragile environments.

Jim Whitson, PE, CEM
Director, Projects
L'Oreal USA, North Little Rock

Jim graduated from the University of Arkansas with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He has worked for Eastman Chemical, LM Windpower, and L'Oreal in various facilities management and engineering positions. He is a licensed professional engineer, a certified energy manager, a member of the Arkansas Academy of Mechanical Engineers, Tau Beta Pi National Engineering Honor Society, and the Arkansas Association of Energy Engineers. He is a past member and chairman of the City of Batesville Utilities Commission. He and his wife Patti are the parents of two daughters.

They make their home in Maumelle and are active in their church.

