

Daniel J. Van Abs, PhD, PP/AICP

Associate Professor of Practice for Water, Society and the Environment
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
School of Environmental and Biological Sciences
Department of Human Ecology
55 Dudley Road, New Brunswick, NJ 08903
Email: vanabs@sebs.rutgers.edu

Professional Experience

Rutgers University faculty member addressing water resources, water infrastructure, environmental policy, and regional environmental management. Over 30 years of public and non-profit sector professional and management experience developing and implementing highly recognized programs in watershed protection, water supply management, water quality pollution control, open space planning, land use management and wastewater management. Many projects have involved wide-ranging cooperative efforts with government, non-profit, for-profit, and public interests, with funding from foundations and government. Frequent public speaker on water and watershed policy, planning and management issues.

Education & Professional Accreditation

Strong educational background in both environment policy and management and the natural and earth sciences, with a specialty in regional environmental management. Licensed NJ professional planner.

- PhD, State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry in association with Syracuse University, Graduate Program in Environmental Science (Environmental Policy Option)
- BS in Environmental Studies with high honors, Cook College, Rutgers University
- Licensed Professional Planner, State of New Jersey, LI#005637
- Certified Planner, American Institute of Certified Planners
- Certified Public Manager, Rutgers University and the NJ Department of Personnel

Related Activities

Numerous publications, conference presentations, guest lectures at NJ universities. Extensive professional involvement on State advisory boards, and volunteer leadership in non-profit organizations. Current responsibilities include:

- New Jersey Clean Water Council, Governor's appointment, Chair 2014-2015
- New Jersey Water Supply Advisory Council, Technical Advisor
- Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, Board of Trustees
- Passaic River Coalition, Board of Trustees

Complete Professional Experience

- 2016 to present Affiliated Faculty in the Department of Landscape Architecture, Rutgers University, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS).
- 2012 to present Associate Professor of Practice for Water, Society and Environment, Department of Human Ecology, Rutgers-SEBS. Undergraduate teaching, research projects and public service.
- 2007 to 2012 Senior Director for Planning & Science, Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council (NJ). Responsible for managing staff in the development and implementation of the Highlands Regional Master Plan. Final three months as Acting Executive Director and Acting Deputy Executive Director.
- 1999 to 2007 Director of Watershed Protection Programs, New Jersey Water Supply Authority. Created source water protection program; managed development of the Raritan Basin Watershed Management Plan and subsequent implementation projects.
- 1993 to 1998 Assistant Administrator, Office of Environmental Planning, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). Responsible for management of water supply and water quality planning, including ground and surface water quality standards, Statewide Water Supply Plan, wastewater management planning, and watershed management planning program.
- 1986 to 1992 Principal Planner and Environmental Scientist (supervisory positions), NJDEP. Responsible for ground water quality standards, wellhead protection program and ground water strategy.
- 1982 to 1986 Technical Director, Passaic River Coalition. Responsible for ground water research, water supply planning and riverfront parks and restoration projects, among others.
- 1977 to 1978 Assistant Director, Youth Environmental Society. Statewide youth leadership training programs.
- Various Rutgers University, Part-time Lecturer, 1989-90, 2002, 2011-2013

Recent Public Service

Boards, Councils and Commissions

- 2015 to present Jersey Water Works, Steering Committee
- 2014 to present Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, Board of Trustees. 1992-98 (Vice President 1997-98), 2014-2017 (Executive Committee; Chair, Science & Technical Issues Committee)
- 2013 to present Passaic River Coalition, Board of Trustees. Chair, Technical Committee
- 2005 to present New Jersey Clean Water Council, Governor's appointment. Vice Chair, 2010-13; Chair, 2014-15.
- 2001 to present New Jersey Water Supply Advisory Council, Technical Advisor
- 2005 to 2014 South Brunswick Environmental Commission. Vice Chair 2008, Chairman 2009-2012.

Advisory Committees

- 2016 to 2018 Water Research Foundation: Academic Council
- 2016 New York – New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program: Water Quality Work Group (WQWG)
- 2016 The Nature Conservancy-New Jersey Chapter: Conservancy Council.
- 2015 to 2016 Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission: Municipal Technical Assistance Advisory Panel
- 2015 to 2016 River Network: Delaware River Basin Policy Advisory Group
- 2015 to present American Planning Association: Water Working Group
- 2015 to present Sustainable Jersey: Gold Certification Standards Committee
- 2015 to 2016 American Society of Civil Engineers-NJ Chapter: Water Supply and Wastewater Infrastructure Evaluation for the NJ Scorecard Project
- 2015 Regional Plan Association: Committee on the Fourth Regional Plan, Parks & Landscapes Group
- 2014 to present Open Space Institute: Delaware River Water Protection Fund Advisory Committee
- 2014 to 2015 Academy of Natural Science (Drexel University): Delaware River Watershed Initiative Research Agenda Development Committee
- 2014 to 2015 Partnership for the Delaware Estuary: Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer System Expert Panel

Publications, Papers and Video Productions

- 2016 Climate Change Adaptation in the Water Supply Sector. Prepared for the New Jersey Climate Adaptation Alliance, New Brunswick, NJ. Available from: <http://njadapt.rutgers.edu/>
- 2016 Evaluation of the Suez Water-New York, Rockland County Water Supply. Prepared for the Rockland Water Coalition, NY.
- 2016 Karen O'Neill and Daniel Van Abs (editors). Van Abs, Chapter 12: "Water Utilities: Storm Preparedness and Restoration." Taking Chances: The Coast after Hurricane Sandy. Rutgers University Press. Available from: <http://rutgerspress.rutgers.edu/product/Taking-Chances,5897.aspx>
- 2016 "A Flood of Choices: Considering Privatization of Water Utilities." NJ Municipalities Magazine. New Jersey State League of Municipalities, February 2016, pp. 22-26.
- 2015 "Can We Depend on Our Water Infrastructure." With Christine Sturm. NJ Municipalities Magazine. New Jersey State League of Municipalities, February 2015, pp. 66-68.
- 2015 A River for the People: A Public Access Plan for the Lower Passaic River. Passaic River Coalition, Morristown, NJ. Co-authors: Yuling Gao, Jiayi Ding and Samantha Saydak.
- 2014 "Water Systems to be Major Challenge in Years Ahead." Estuary News, Volume 24, Issue 4, Summer 2014. Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. Available from: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/delawareestuary/pdf/EstuaryNews/2014/SummerNews14.pdf>
- 2014 Effects of Land Development on Water Resources of the Pinelands Region. With Oliver Stringham, Yuling Gao and Tim Evans. Prepared for New Jersey Future. Rutgers-The State University of New Jersey. New Brunswick, NJ. Available from: www.njfuture.org/research-publications/research-reports/growing-smart-water-wise/
- 2014 Water Infrastructure in New Jersey's CSO Cities: Elevating the Importance of Upgrading New Jersey's Urban Water Systems. With Alexander McClean, Ioanna Tsoulou, Yuling Gao and Tim Evans. A Report for New Jersey Future. Rutgers-The State University of New Jersey. New Brunswick, NJ. Available from: www.njfuture.org/2014/05/06/new-report-water-infrastructure/
- 2014 "Hydrologically Sensitive Areas, Land Use Controls and Protection of Healthy Watersheds." Qiu, Zeyuan; Christine Hall; Donna Drewes; Grace Messinger; Tony Prato; Kathy Hale; Dan Van Abs. Journal of Water Resources Planning and Management. Ms. No. WRENG-1122R2
- 2013 Water Resources Baseline Assessment Report. Prepared for New Jersey Future on behalf of the North Jersey Sustainable Communities Consortium. Trenton, NJ. Available from: http://togethernorthjersey.com/?page_id=19971
- 2011 "Chapter 5: Water Supply Resources" in The Highlands: Treasured Landscapes, Critical Resources. Richard Lathrop, Jr., editor. Rutgers University Press.
- 2011 "New Recommendations for Water Utility Asset Management and Accounting" with Jessica Rittler Sanchez. Pipeline, Winter 2011. American Water Works Association, New Jersey Chapter.
- 2011 "Protecting Our Water Infrastructure: Will We Manage for Success or Run to Failure?" New Jersey Municipalities Magazine, February 2011. New Jersey State League of Municipalities.
- 2006-08 Highlands Regional Master Plan. Editing, co-author and staff manager for Regional Master Plan, Policy Guidance Documents and Technical Reports. New Jersey Highlands Council, Chester, NJ. www.highlands.state.nj.us/njhighlands/master/index.html
- 2006 "Raritan Basin Targeted Watersheds Grant: Creating the Basis for Successful Implementation," in Watershed Update Vol.4, No. 2, American Water Resources Association Hydrology and Watershed Management Technical Committee, www.awra.org/committees/techcom/watershed/watershed.html
- 2005 Preservation of Critical Areas in the Manasquan River Watershed. (with Y. Zhen), NJ Water Supply Authority, Clinton, NJ. Available from: www.raritanbasin.org/Projects/manasquan/CriticalArea.pdf

Publications, Papers and Video Productions (Cont'd)

- 2004 "The Highlands Rediscovered," featured interview. New Jersey Network. Available from: <http://aptonline.org/catalog.nsf/vLinkTitle/HIGHLANDS+REDISCOVERED+THE>.
- 2004 "Raritan Basin Targeted Watersheds Grant: Update on the First Year," in Watershed Update Vol. 2, No. 2, American Water Resources Association Hydrology and Watershed Management Technical Committee, www.awra.org/committees/techcom/watershed/watershed.html
- 2003 "Raritan Basin Watershed Management Project (New Jersey)," in Regional Update, American Water Resources Association Hydrology and Watershed Management Technical Committee
- 2003 Raritan Basin Watershed Management Plan. Co-author and project manager, NJ Water Supply Authority, Clinton, NJ. Available from: www.raritanbasin.org
- 2002 Preservation of Critical Areas in the Spruce Run Reservoir Watersheds: A Report of the Spruce Run Initiative (with T. Stanuikynas). NJ Water Supply Authority. Available from: www.raritanbasin.org
- 2000 Water Budget in the Raritan Basin: A Technical Report for the Raritan Basin Watershed Management Project (with T. Stanuikynas). NJ Water Supply Authority. Available from: www.raritanbasin.org
- 2000 Water Supply Availability in the Raritan Basin: A Technical Report for the Raritan Basin Watershed Management Project (w T. Stanuikynas). NJ Water Supply Authority. Available from: www.raritanbasin.org
- 1997 Water Quality Management Planning Rules, N.J.A.C. 7:15-6 (303d List) and 7 (TMDLs). New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Trenton, NJ.
- 1996 Water For The 21st Century: The Vital Resource: New Jersey Statewide Water Supply Plan. Co-author, co-editor and project manager. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.
- 1993 Ground Water Quality Standards, N.J.A.C. 7:9-6. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.
- 1991 Well Head Protection Program Plan. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.
- 1990 "Principles of a Ground Water Strategy" (with W. Whipple). Journal of Water Resources Mgt & Planning, Vol. 116, No.4, July/August. ASCE.
- 1989 "Principles of a Ground Water Strategy." (With W. Whipple) Conference paper for the American Society of Civil Engineers, 1989 Water Resources Planning and Management Division Specialty Conference, Sacramento, California, May 20.
- 1989 A Ground Water Strategy for New Jersey (with W. Whipple). New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.
- 1986 Buried Valley Aquifer Systems: Resources and Contamination. Passaic River Coalition, Basking Ridge, NJ.
- 1985 Regional Environmental Management in the Pinelands National Reserve. Doctoral dissertation. SUNY-ESF, Syracuse, NY.
- 1984 The Raritan-Passaic Pipeline: Analysis and Recommendations. Passaic River Coalition
- 1984 Preliminary Debris Survey: Lower Passaic River. Passaic River Coalition
- 1983 The Hydrogeology of the Buried Valley Aquifer System. Passaic River Coalition
- 1984 Passaic River Restoration Master Plan for East Rutherford and Wallington. Passaic River Coalition
- 1978 New Jersey Environmental Directory, 1978-79. Editor. Youth Environmental Society. Cranbury, NJ.

Solicited Opinion Articles

- 2016 Opinion: Those Who Plan for Growth Should Plan for Water Services. NJ Spotlight, 7 July. <http://www.njspotlight.com/stories/16/07/06/opinion-those-who-plan-for-growth-should-plan-for-water-services/>
- 2016 Opinion: Learning to Live with Our Addiction to Hazardous Sites by Water. NJ Spotlight, 3 May. <http://www.njspotlight.com/stories/16/05/02/opinion-learning-to-live-with-our-addiction-to-hazardous-locations-by-water/#>
- 2016 Opinion: When Water Utilities Are Sold, the Customers Should Benefit. NJ Spotlight, 15 March. <http://www.njspotlight.com/stories/16/03/14/opinion-when-water-utilities-are-sold-it-s-the-customers-who-should-benefit/#>
- 2016 Opinion: Let Flint Strike Sparks to Address Water Supply Problems in NJ. NJ Spotlight, 8 February. <http://www.njspotlight.com/stories/16/02/07/opinion-let-flint-strike-sparks-to-address-water-supply-problems-in-nj/>
- 2016 Opinion: Thinking Smaller for more Effective Flood Protection. NJ Spotlight, January 22. <http://www.njspotlight.com/stories/16/01/21/opinion-thinking-smaller-for-effective-flood-protection-in-the-garden-state/>
- 2015 Opinion: Find the Nine Million Water Polluters in NJ. NJ Spotlight, October 9. http://www.njspotlight.com/stories/15/10/08/opinion-find-the-nine-million-water-polluters-in-nj-hint-it-s-not-industry/?utm_source=NJ+Spotlight++Master+List&utm_campaign=c0a6dad4e1-Daily+Digest+2+5+2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1d26f473a7-c0a6dad4e1-398635465
- 2015 Opinion: Require Water Utilities to Spend More Now So They Will Cost Less Later. NJ Spotlight, September 3. www.njspotlight.com/stories/15/09/02/opinion-nj-should-require-water-utilities-to-spend-more-now-so-they-will-cost-less-later/
- 2015 Opinion: Why are Municipal Water Utilities Not Up for Mergers and Acquisitions? NJ Spotlight, August 10. www.njspotlight.com/stories/15/08/10/opinion-why-are-municipal-water-utilities-not-up-for-mergers-and-acquisitions/#
- 2015 Opinion: Will the Garden State Be Ready When the Next Drought Arrives? NJ Spotlight, July 7. www.njspotlight.com/stories/15/07/06/opinion-will-the-garden-state-be-ready-when-the-next-drought-arrives/
- 2015 Opinion: Is Water Supply a Commodity, a Service or a Right? NJ Spotlight, May 22. www.njspotlight.com/stories/15/05/21/opinion-is-water-supply-a-commodity-a-service-or-a-right/
- 2015 Opinion: Steering Clear of the 2 Percent Trap for Water Utilities. NJ Spotlight, April 22. www.njspotlight.com/stories/15/04/21/opinion-steering-clear-of-the-2-percent-trap-for-water-utilities/
- 2015 Opinion: The Clock is Ticking for New Jersey to Control Combined Sewer Overflows. NJ Spotlight, March 19, www.njspotlight.com/stories/15/03/19/opinion-the-clock-is-ticking-for-new-jersey-to-control-combined-sewer-overflows/
- 2015 Opinion: Do Our Urban Water Systems Have What It Takes to Handle Rapid Growth? NJ Spotlight, February 11, www.njspotlight.com/stories/15/02/10/opinion-do-our-urban-water-systems-have-what-it-takes-to-handle-rapid-growth/#
- 2014 "Opinion: We Just Can't Afford the Price We'll Pay for State's Cheap Water." NJ Spotlight, December 10, www.njspotlight.com/stories/14/12/09/opinion-why-we-in-new-jersey-can-t-afford-our-cheap-water/
- 2014 "Analysis: Are We Truly Serious About Improving New Jersey's Water Quality?" NJ Spotlight, November 14, www.njspotlight.com/stories/14/11/13/analysis-are-we-truly-serious-about-improving-new-jersey-s-water-quality/ (2015 First Place Award for On-line Commentary, NJ Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists)