



DAM BUSTERS



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR DAM REMOVAL AGENDA

Friday, September 26th, 2025

10 AM – 4 PM

Blackstone River Valley Heritage Center

10:00 AM	Registration & Light Breakfast
10:30 AM	Welcome & Opening
10:45 AM	Dam Removal Practitioners Panel • Brittany Ebeling, Berkshire Environmental Action Team • Neil Shea, Ipswich River Watershed Association • Lisa Kumpf, Charles River Watershed Association
11:45 AM	Lunch
12:30-3:30 PM	Interactive Engagement Workshop • Emily Volger, Rhode Island School of Design
3:30-4:00 PM	Closing

Help us keep Dam
Busters free &
accessible!
Give us your feedback
on this session





SPEAKER BIOS

Brittany Ebeling, Executive Director **Berkshire Environmental Action Team**

Brittany leads Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT), whose work is dedicated to protecting the environment for wildlife in support of the natural world that sustains us all. Brittany has worked as an advocate on climate justice issues, collective land ownership models, and sustainable food systems. She has an undergraduate degree in International Economics and Peace Studies from the University of Notre Dame and a Master's in Urban Policy from Sciences Po Paris. Brittany lives in Sheffield, Massachusetts, where she co-owns Little Bean Farm and Pantry, where she and her partner Ben grow unique heirloom dry beans.

Neil Shea, Restoration Program Director **Ipswich River Watershed Association**

Neil holds a B.A. in Biology from the College of the Holy Cross and a M.S. in Geosciences from the University of Connecticut. He has over 10 years of experience in fluvial geomorphology and watershed restoration work including dam removals, riparian corridor improvements, and stream crossing projects. His work at Ipswich River Watershed Association over the past four years has reinforced the importance of science communication in effective community engagement.

Lisa Kumpf, Senior River Restoration Program Manager **Charles River Watershed Association**

Lisa has a background in geology research and outdoor education, and is passionate about clear and compelling science communication strategies. In her role, she oversees CRWA's river restoration work, including dam removal, stream restoration, and invasive plant management, providing technical and strategic expertise to project teams.

Emily Vogler, Associate Professor **Rhode Island School of Design**

Emily Vogler is a landscape architect, environmental planner and artist whose research, design and teaching investigate social-ecological systems surrounding water, sense of place and climate uncertainty. She has ongoing research projects looking at the irrigation ditches in New Mexico, aging dam infrastructure in New England and coastal adaptation strategies in Narragansett Bay. Through her research and design practice, she investigates how the restoration and design of the riparian and coastal commons can build climate resilience, improve habitat, expand public access, and strengthen community identity. Emily is an associate professor at RISD where she teaches seminars and design studios on hydrological systems, urban ecology, landscape commons, community engagement strategies, and material and site-based strategies to restoration. She is also the founder and principle of Commonplace Landscape and Planning. From 2017–2019, Vogler served as Department Head of Landscape Architecture at RISD. Before joining the faculty, she was a Senior Project Manager at Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates and was recognized as the 2010 National Olmsted Scholar.