

20th Annual

# **BREAKFAST** *of* **CHAMPIONS**

Friday, May 13th 2022



**CLEAN WATER ACTION**

# 2022 Awardees

DAVID R. GERRAUGHTY AWARD  
FOR LIFETIME COMMITMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT

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**MEG KERR**

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH LEADER  
OF THE YEAR

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**DR. NICOLE ALEXANDER-SCOTT**

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATE  
OF THE YEAR

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**LIZA BURKIN**

LOCAL LEADER  
OF THE YEAR

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**KATE MICHAUD**

ELECTED OFFICIAL  
OF THE YEAR

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ATTORNEY GENERAL  
**PETER NERONHA**



CLEAN WATER ACTION

Our mission is to protect our environment, health, economic well-being and community quality of life. Clean Water Action organizes strong grassroots groups and coalitions, and campaigns to elect environmental candidates and to solve environmental and community problems.

20th Annual Breakfast of Champions

# NICOLE Alexander-Scott



Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH recently served as Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) from April 2015 to February 2022. Dr. Alexander-Scott is board certified in Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, Pediatric Infectious Diseases, and Adult Infectious Diseases. From 2018-2019, Dr. Alexander-Scott was President of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), the national organization for state health directors, after being elected by her peers. Her ASTHO President's Challenge focuses on "Building Healthy and Resilient Communities."

In her time as Director of Health, Dr. Alexander-Scott made it RIDOH's principal focus to give every person and every community in Rhode Island an equal opportunity to be as healthy as possible. Under her leadership, RIDOH was committed to addressing community level determinants of health, such as education, housing, transportation, and employment, so that a person's health does not depend on his or her ZIP code. For her commitment to health equity, Dr. Alexander-Scott has been recognized by numerous local and national organizations, including Grow Smart Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Kresge Foundation.

Originally from Brooklyn, New York, Dr. Alexander-Scott attended Cornell University, where she majored in Human Development and Family Studies. She graduated from medical school in 2001 from SUNY Upstate Medical University at Syracuse. After completing a combined internal medicine-pediatrics residency at SUNY Stony Brook University Hospital in 2005, Dr. Alexander-Scott finished a four-year combined fellowship in adult and pediatric infectious diseases at Brown University. She obtained a Master's Degree in Public Health from Brown University in 2011.

# LIZA Burkin



Liza Burkin is the lead organizer of the Providence Streets Coalition where she builds the human infrastructure that is necessary to change physical infrastructure for a safer, more equitable and sustainable city. Liza is an urban planner, community organizer, and communications professional working to bring safer streets, mobility justice, and more transportation choices to the Providence area. The Coalition includes 70 community organizations, local businesses, schools, and civic organizations who work together to advance streets built to share. Liza has a degree in journalism and strategic communications from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a masters in Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning from Tufts University. She is also the longtime Digital Editor of Edible Rhody Magazine and on the organizing team of Providence Bike Jam (PBJ), a monthly social group ride / mobile dance party that spreads joy around the city. Except for those few years in the midwest, she is a lifelong New Englander.

# KATE Michaud



Kate Michaud is the Town Manager of the Town of Warren, Rhode Island, where she manages all departments and day-to-day operations. Kate holds a degree from Providence College and has served in Rhode Island municipal government for more than 20 years. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and has recently obtained certification as a Climate Change Professional (CC-P). Kate has completed studies at the University of Rhode Island's Institute for Housing and Community Development and the Creating Collaborative Solutions Program at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Kate has also participated in Rhode Island School of Design's Innovative Design and Public Policy Institute. She serves on the Board of Directors for the RI League of Cities and Towns, the Steering Committee of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program and the Risk Management Committee of the Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust.



# PETER Neronha



Peter F. Neronha is the 74th Attorney General of the State of Rhode Island and leads an office that oversees all felony criminal prosecutions and civil legal matters on behalf of the public.

Mr. Neronha's career in public service began in 1996, as a Special Assistant Attorney General in the Office of the Attorney General.


From 2009 to 2017, at the appointment of President Barack Obama, he served as the United States Attorney for the District of Rhode Island.

Mr. Neronha graduated in 1985 from Boston College and later from Boston College Law School in 1989. Prior to his career in public service, he worked for the Boston, Massachusetts law firm Goodwin, Proctor L.L.P for seven years.

**MEG** Kerr







Meg Kerr is an environmental scientist, coalition builder, mom and grandmom. The foundations for her career in environmental science, policy and advocacy includes degrees from Brown University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and positions in government. Meg has worked for a variety of organizations, helped launch coalitions to focus on water and transportation policy and organized and hosted the Land & Water Conservation Summit with Rupert Friday for 17 years.

The focus of her work switched to advocacy in 2014 when she was hired by Brown University to help lead the campaign for the Resilient Rhode Island Act. She then served as the RI Clean Water Director for a little over a year before joining the Audubon Society of Rhode Island as their Director of Policy. She was a key player organizing the coalition that helped pass the 2021 Act On Climate bill. She retired in June of 2021 and loves spending time with her children and grandchildren while continuing to help out with the Providence Stormwater Innovation Center.

# 2022 Legislative Priorities

## **H 7438 and S 2044: Elimination of PFAS in Food Packaging**

**Introduced by: Representative Cortvriend and Senator Seveney**

This bill will prohibit the use of PFAS (per and polyfluoroalkyl substances) from being used in food packaging. PFAS chemicals repel both oil and water, but with this special chemistry comes a special problem: they are so highly persistent that scientists call them “virtually indestructible.” Their widespread usage has made them global pollutants that threaten both environmental and public health. PFAS are currently found in only 40% of food packaging products, so safer alternatives already exist. The state of Washington banned PFAS in 2018, Maine in 2019, and nine other states are considering similar legislation. This bill passed in the House in 2021 but failed to pass the Senate. It has passed in the House again this year.

## **H 7436 and S 2449: Comprehensive PFAS Ban Act of 2022**

**Introduced by: Representative Cortvriend and Senator DiMario**

This bill would prohibit the use of PFAS (perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances) from being used in carpets, upholstered furniture, textile furnishings, apparel, cosmetics juvenile products, cookware, firefighting foam, and other consumer goods

## **H 7279 and S 2296: Extended Producer Responsibility**

**Introduced by: Representative Bennett and Senator Valverde**

## **H 7378 and S 2300: Beverage Container Deposit Recycling Act of 2022**

**Introduced by: Representative McEntee and Senator Valverde**

These two bills are the two major legislative policy solutions to tackle Rhode Island’s plastic pollution and recycling problems by reducing single-use plastics at their source. These bills, which would give the producers of plastic products and packaging a financial stake in the end-of-life management of their products. This will eliminate the flow of plastics into our neighborhoods and waterways, extend the life of the landfill, and reduce costs for municipalities and taxpayers. With the amount of plastic production set to *triple* from present levels by 2050 if we stay on our current course, state policymakers across the country are finally seeing the need to address the problem at its source rather than at the end-of-pipe where attention—and the so-called solutions— has been focused for so long.

# STATE DIRECTOR Jed Thorp



Jed Thorp became the RI State Director in May 2022, having previously worked on energy and climate change policy in Clean Water Action's Boston office from 2003-2005. Before returning to Clean Water Action, Jed was the Advocacy Coordinator for Save The Bay (Rhode Island). He got his start in environmental advocacy as a canvasser and field manager for Ohio Citizen Action in his native state of Ohio. He spent five years as the Public Involvement Coordinator with the Ohio EPA and was the Chapter Director for the Ohio Sierra Club before moving to Rhode Island.

Jed has worked on a variety of environmental issues over the years, and believes there are two sources of power in politics: money and people. He enjoys the strategic process of translating "people power" into meaningful political change. Jed has helped lead campaigns to clean up polluting power plants, promote energy efficiency, protect public lands from fracking, reduce fertilizer runoff, fund climate adaptation projects, and protect public shoreline access, to name a few.

Jed holds a BA in political science from the University of Findlay (Ohio) and an MA in political science from the University of British Columbia. He's an avid hiker, gardener, jazz lover and baseball fan, and lives in Cranston, RI, with his wife and daughter.

# CWA 2022 Staff

*Michelle Beaudin*

Canvass Supervisor & Program Organizer

*Brian Cardinal*

Canvass Field Manager

*Bethany Dickerson*

Finance & Development Associate

*Jennifer Loveland-Rose*

Canvass Field Manager

*Amber Schmidt*

Field Canvass Director

*Madison Shaw*

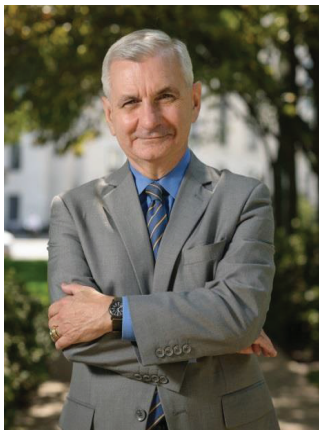
Field Canvass Staff

*Jed Thorp*

State Director



20th Annual Breakfast of Champions



***Best wishes to  
Clean Water Action  
for a Successful 20<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Breakfast of Champions***

***United States Senator Jack Reed***

*Paid for by the Reed Committee*



**Congratulations to the honorees of  
Clean Water Action's Breakfast of Champions.  
Thank you for your commitment to our environment.**

**SHELDON WHITEHOUSE**  
OUR UNITED STATES SENATOR

**Paid for by Whitehouse for Senate.**



# *Congratulations!*

## 2022 Clean Water Action Champions!

**Kate Michaud**  
Local Leader of the Year

**Liza Burkin**  
Environmental Advocate of the Year

**Attorney General Peter Neronha**  
Elected Official of the Year

**Dr. Nicole Alexander-Scott**  
Former Director of the R.I. Department of Health

**Meg Kerr**  
The David R. Gerraughty Award for Lifetime Commitment to the Environment.



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### **Congratulations, Clean Water Champions**

Conservation Law Foundation  
is proud to partner with  
Clean Water Action to  
protect Rhode Island's  
precious waters today  
and for generations  
to come.



Working to create a healthy and  
thriving New England for all  
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**Congratulations to Kate Michaud  
and all the 2022 Champions.**

**Keep up the good work**

*-Clement Brown*



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**Honored to support Clean Water Action.**

**Congratulations to the  
20th Annual Breakfast of Champions honorees.**

Paid for by The Cicilline Committee



Thank you  
CWA Champions!



The Nature Conservancy



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# SENATOR JOSHUA MILLER

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**THANK YOU**  
CLEAN WATER ACTION  
**FOR 20 YEARS**  
**OF ADVOCACY!**

**FROM YOUR**  
**PFAS WARRIORS**

REP. TERRI CORTVRIEND  
REP. JUNE SPEAKMAN  
& SENATOR ALANA DIMARIO

# Making Rhode Island public schools *great* for every child.



Lawrence E. Purtill, President  
Valarie Lawson, Vice President  
Robert A. Walsh, Jr., Executive Director

99 Bald Hill Road  
Cranston, Rhode Island, 02920  
(401) 463-9630