

Spring 2017 Symposium

Past, Present, and Future Needs in Agriculture and Natural Resources

Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Waterfront Place Hotel, 2 Waterfront Place, Morgantown, WV

12:00 – 1:00 pm	Luncheon Buffet
1:00 – 1:15 pm	<p>Welcome and Speaker Introduction: Dr. Jason Hubbart</p> <p>Symposium Opening Statement: Dr. Joyce McConnell, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs West Virginia University</p>
1:15 – 2:00 pm Keynote Address	<p>Dr. Ali I. Mohamed, Director, Division of Environmental System U.S. Department of Agriculture</p> <p>Dr. Ali Mohamed has worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) since March 2007, and currently serves as Director for the Division of Environmental Systems (DoES), Institute of Bioenergy, Climate and Environment and as Acting Director for the Bioenergy Division. As division director, he provides coordination and oversight for the division's research, extension and education programs. These programs are focusing on the mitigation of environmental impact of agriculture and improve the quality of our world. The national leadership of this division integrates research, education, and extension expertise to address contemporary environmental and natural resource problems with new approaches that are economically sound and environmentally advantageous. DoES conducts its programs primarily in partnership with land-grant university scientists and cooperative extension faculty and collaborate with other Federal agencies.</p> <p>Previously, Dr. Mohamed served as NPL for the 1890 Capacity Building Grant Program (CBG) with broad responsibilities that include the coordination and providing competitive funding to strengthen education, research and extension programs in the food and agricultural sciences and international programs at the 1890 universities. Dr. Mohamed's other experiences include serving as Chair of the Department of Biology, and tenured professor at Virginia State University. Under his leadership, the biology department established strong research component which provide excellent vehicle for research training for minority students. He was elected to the VSU faculty senate and chaired numbers of University committees including the Faculty Policies Committee, University Scientific Integrity Committee to name a few. He served President of the Virginia Academy of Science (VAS) which successfully increased the participation of minorities (faculty and students) in different VAS activities. He published widely in referred scientific journal and has large number of scientific presentation at national scientific meeting. During his tenure at VSU, Mohamed received large number of competitive grants from USDA, NSF, NIH and industry. He trained many of African American graduate and undergraduate students as well as provided support them through his funded grants. He received number of teaching and research-related awards and one of them is the 2004 VSU "Outstanding Faculty" award. Through his carrier, Dr. Mohamed also served on number of advisory boards.</p> <p>Dr. Mohamed has a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Biochemistry from University of Cairo, Egypt, a Master of Science, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural Biochemistry from the same institution. He received his postdoctoral training at University of Maryland in 1981 and USDA/CSREES Fellow in 2004.</p>
2:00 – 2:30 pm	<p>Clyde Thompson, Forest Supervisor U.S. Forest Service, Eastern Region</p> <p>Clyde Thompson currently serves as the Forest Supervisor of the Monongahela National Forest. As Forest Supervisor, Mr. Thompson's leadership goal is to facilitate sustainable, productive landscapes in a way that supports adjacent communities.</p>



Prior to becoming Forest Supervisor of the Monongahela National Forest in 2002, Mr. Thompson was a Forest Supervisor in Michigan; Deputy Forest Supervisor in Minnesota; District Ranger in Arizona; District Ranger in Wyoming; and worked in other positions in Utah, Idaho, and Oregon. Mr. Thompson received his BS in Forest Land Management from Northern Arizona University and has completed graduate work in public administration. He has three grown children and four grandchildren.

2:30 – 3:00 pm

**Dr. JoAnn Slama Lighty, Division Director
NSF Division of Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, and Transport Systems**

JoAnn S. Lighty, director of the Division of Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, and Transport Systems (CBET) in the Directorate for Engineering, is also professor of the department of chemical engineering at the University of Utah. She joined the National Science Foundation (NSF) in October 2013. The division supports fundamental engineering research, in areas such as advanced biomanufacturing, clean energy, sustainability, transport and reaction fundamentals, synthetic biology, and neuroengineering, with an annual budget of approximately \$180M. JoAnn also serves as a key architect for Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems. Lighty has received numerous honors and recognitions, including educator awards from the Society of Women Engineers and the Utah Engineering Council, university service awards for her work in broadening participation, and election to Fellow by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

At the University of Utah, Lighty served in a variety of leadership capacities. She led the department of chemical engineering from 2007 to 2013 and served as associate dean for academic affairs for the College of Engineering from 1997 to 2004. During the intervening years, Lighty directed the Institute for Combustion and Energy Studies (now the Institute for Clean and Secure Energy). Lighty's research has focused on the formation of fine particulate matter; the fate of mercury in combustion; carbon capture technologies; and on the formation and oxidation of soot. While serving on committees for the EPA and the National Research Council, she contributed to reports on national issues including air quality, hazardous waste management, and water quality.

3:00 – 3:15 pm

Break

3:15 – 3:45 pm

**Bret Preston, Assistant Chief for Warmwater Fisheries
West Virginia Division of Natural Resources**

Bret Preston is an assistant chief of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Section. He has been with the West Virginia DNR for 22 years and for the last 15 years has served as the fisheries management administrator. He has been project leader for public fishing and boating access and supervisor of warmwater hatchery operations. He began his career as a creel clerk on Sebago Lake in Maine, and has served as staff researcher for the Maine Legislature and as an environmental analyst for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. He received his undergraduate degree in geography from Eastern Kentucky University, an M.S. in fisheries science from Virginia Tech, and certificate in public management from WVU. He and his wife, Leanna, live in South Charleston, WV, and have two grown daughters.

3:45 pm – 4:15

**Jeremy McGill, Assistant State Forester
WV Division of Forestry**

A native West Virginian, Jeremy McGill joined the WV Division of Forestry in 2002 after receiving a B.S. in Forest Resource Management from West Virginia University that same year. Prior to joining the WV Division of Forestry, Mr. McGill worked in timber procurement in Meyersdale, PA, and completed internships with Coastal Timberlands and the WV Division of Forestry. Mr. McGill has been in his current position of Assistant State Forester, Logging and Sediment Control Act (LSCA) and Managed Timberland (MTL) since 2007. He currently resides in Upshur County.

4:15 – 4:45 pm

Panel Discussion / Question and Answer Session
**Moderated by Dr. Nicolas Zegre, Associate Professor of Forest Hydrology
WVU Division of Forestry & Natural Resources**

4:45 – 5:00 pm

Closing Statement
**Dr. Melanie Page, Associate VP for Creative and Scholarly Activities
WVU Research Office**

5:00 – 7:00 pm

Reception and Poster Presentations (Hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine served)