



SOUTHERN
NEW ENGLAND
CHAPTER

Soil and Water Conservation Society

Fiscal Year 2020-21 Board of Directors Election Ballot

Please return this ballot by Friday June 19th, 2020 via USPS to: SWCS SNEC c/o Carol Grasis, 15 Vinetta Drive, Vernon, CT 06066; or you may also scan your ballot and e-mail it to info@swcssnec.org by the above deadline. We will also send out an electronic ballot to you via email** - just choose a medium and cast your votes!

Candidate biographies and job descriptions for volunteer SNEC Board of Director positions are included in this ballot. All members are eligible to vote for all candidates. You may write in a candidate; self-nominations are welcome. Candidates must be SNEC members in good standing, and willing to participate. Please notify Renee at info@swcssnec.org of write-in candidates.

Elected BOD candidates may be eligible to use these volunteer hours to fulfill requirements towards maintaining professional certifications

President (1 year term)

- Timothy Randhir

Rhode Island Representative (3 year term)

- Jeffrey Peterson

Vice President (1 year term)

- Carol Grasis

Student Director (1 year term)

- Moussa A. Siri

Secretary (1 year term)

- Doug McCluskey

**Didn't receive a digital ballot? Please take a moment to send your name and correct mailing address to info@swcssnec.org. This will ensure that you continue to receive up to date information.

Thank you for your participation! Election results will be announced at the Annual SNEC Summer Meeting online. You may register at swcssnec.org.



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Candidates for the FY 2020-21 Board of Directors

President - Timothy Randhir (*SNEC member since 1994*)

Dr. Timothy O. Randhir is a Professor of Watershed Management and Water Quality with the Department of Environmental Conservation at the University of Massachusetts. He received his Ph.D. from Purdue University in 1995 and did postdoctoral work there before joining UMass as a faculty in 1997. Timothy specializes in watershed management, climate change, water resources, ecological economics, dynamic systems modeling and optimization, GIS and spatial analysis, land use policy, common-pool resource management, nonpoint source pollution, and natural resources policy. He serves as Editor of three international journals and is a consultant to AAAS, NASEM, NSF, EPA, and USDA. Timothy is the author of a book on Watershed Management and has published more than 88 referred articles in leading journals including Water Resources Research, Ecological Modeling, Climatic Change, Journal of Hydrology, Forest Ecology and Management, Journal of Soil and Water Conservation, and Journal of American Water Resources Association.

Vice President - Carol Grasis (*SNEC member since 1995*)

Carol Grasis graduated from the University of Connecticut, College of Natural Resources Management and Engineering in 1994 with a BS in Renewable Natural Resources. Carol has been employed by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service since 1994. She was originally hired as a cartographic technician for the Statewide Soil Survey program and then became a soil conservationist in 1996 and worked in the Windsor Service Center until moving to the CT NRCS State Office in 2010. She is currently a Resource Conservationist, working on the Program Staff for CT NRCS. Outside of the office, her interests include hiking, gardening, reading and spending time with her family. She is a trail manager and volunteer with the Vernon Greenways Volunteers, and has coached baseball at the Little League and Babe Ruth level. Carol has served on the board of SNEC-SWCS in the past, including terms as CT Director (1999), President (2001, 2002), President (2013) and Secretary (2015-present).

Secretary - Doug McCluskey (*SNEC member since 2020*)

Doug McCluskey is currently employed by Everett J Prescott as the Western Erosion Control & Geoproduct Specialist. Doug has over 12 years' experience in the promotion & education of various product lines related to Geosynthetics, Erosion Control, Sediment Control, & Ground Stabilization. In this role Doug is in contact with local, state, and federal regulatory agencies and he also works closely with engineers, landscape architects, municipalities, and contractors in both the public and private sector to promote the awareness of erosion control, sediment control, and geo-products applications and practices. Doug is active in several professional organizations, frequently conducts presentations to educate decision makers, is involved in training EJ Prescott employees, and manages product sales and promotions in New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Indiana, & Ohio. Doug has also worked closely with the Southern New England Soil & Water Conservation Society to provide field day events, and hands on demonstrations. Doug has been involved in developing specifications for products used on construction projects, and provides on-site supervision and instruction during installations. Doug holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the State University of New York at Potsdam.



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Rhode Island Representative - Jeffrey Peterson *(SNEC member since 2008)*

Jeff Peterson is a Senior Wetland and Soil Scientist at VHB with 40 years combined international and national experience, 27 of them at VHB. His skills include wetland delineation, soil description and classification, erosion and sediment control planning, plant identification, breeding bird surveys, wetland functional assessments and NEPA compliance. Jeff holds CPSS, PWS, CPESC, RI Class IV Soil Evaluator, and ENV SP professional credentials. He has served on the New England Hydric Soils Technical Committee, responsible for establishing criteria for identifying wetland soils, since 1999. He has also authored several successful local, state, and federal wetland permit applications for public transportation, utility and private sector developments in southern New England states.

Student Director - Moussa A. Siri *(SNEC member since 2018)*

Moussa A. Siri is doctoral student with Dr. Timothy Randhir in environmental conservation at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. His research focuses on studying the effects of climate changes on Niger River Watershed and their correlative impacts on populations, to develop strategies to minimize these impacts. He also researches water quality data in Charles River Watershed using data mining methods as a part of Data Science for Common Good project at UMass. Moussa earned his bachelor's degree and master's degree in law, at the University of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso and at the University of Limoges in France, respectively. He also earned a Bachelor of Science in environmental science at the University of New Hampshire and a Master of Science in environmental conservation at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He also served as a teacher assistant for Introduction to Environmental Biology and Forest and People courses taught at UMass.

Descriptions of SWCS SNEC Board of Director Volunteer Positions

President (1-year term)

The President shall preside at meetings of the chapter and the board. He/she shall constitute such committees as she/he deems necessary and proper and shall make all appointments to the committees and shall perform all other duties incidental to this office and shall with approval of the board make such temporary appointments of officers as may be necessary between meetings.

Vice President (1-year term)

The Vice President, in the absence of the President, shall assume the responsibilities of the President. In case of a vacancy in the presidency, the Vice President shall serve as President for the remainder of that year; in case of a vacancy in the office of President-Elect, the Vice President shall serve as President-Elect for the remainder of the year.



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Secretary (1-year term)

The Secretary will keep minutes of all regular and special meetings of the chapter, and at the discretion of the President, shall issue notices of all meetings and shall perform such other duties as are incident to the office.

State Representative (3-year term)

In addition to managing the membership for her/his state and participating in the Board's monthly teleconference meetings, the State Representative also coordinates the Chapter's summer meeting on a rotating basis. State Representative election rotation is as follows: Rhode Island, FY 2020-21; Massachusetts, FY 2021-22; and Connecticut, FY 2022-23.

Student Director (1-year term)

The student director must be a full-time student enrolled at an accredited university or college, pursuing a course of study relevant to the Chapter's mission. The student director will work directly with the Executive Director, with guidance from the Board through monthly teleconference meetings, to help coordinate student outreach and participation.

SWCS Southern New England Chapter's 2020 Annual Summer Meeting is moving online!



We're planning a virtual discussion about how the COVID-19 crisis is affecting food supply and local farmers. This will be followed by the SNEC Annual Meeting, in which we will announce the FY 2020-21 Board of Directors election results. The meeting will take place over Zoom on Friday June 26th, 2020 at 2:00pm.

Look for our updates and the link to registration at
<https://swcssnec.org/2020-summer/>