



ALYSSA DAUSMAN, PHD

Senior Vice President and Chief Scientist

Alyssa has more than 20 years of experience working in hydrology and science to support decision-making. She led strategic planning efforts for the Louisiana Governor's Climate Task Force as well as for the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission in the greater Baton Rouge area.

She began her career as a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Florida in 2000 after completing her B.S. at Tulane University and her M.S. at the University of New Orleans. She received her Ph.D. from Florida International University in 2008 while working with the USGS. During her years in Florida, she focused on numerical modeling and water availability in both the Floridan and Biscayne aquifers, as well as model independent parameter estimation and uncertainty analysis. This work led her to teach all over the world, including India, Portugal, and Mexico.

In 2011, she moved back to the northern Gulf to work on coastal restoration. She was staffed to the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force and was a senior representative to the U.S. Department of the Interior to support both the RESTORE Council and restoration monitoring for the Natural Resource Damage Assessment process. In addition to serving as the Institute's Senior Vice President and Chief Scientist, Dr. Dausman serves as the Chief Scientist of the RESTORE Act Center of Excellence for Louisiana.

Alyssa previously served as the Science Director for the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, an independent federal agency created by the RESTORE Act in 2012. She focused on Gulf restoration and science for the council, comprised of the governors of the five Gulf states and cabinet-level officials from six federal agencies. At the council, Alyssa led the consensus-based development of the Initial Funded Priorities List – a \$156 million suite of projects containing on-the-ground restoration activities. Alyssa also served as the senior scientist in drafting the council's 2016 Comprehensive Plan.

COMPANY ROLE

Senior Vice President /
Chief Scientist

PROJECT ROLE / FOCUS AREAS

Technical coordination

Team coordination

Structured Decision
Making

Hydrology

EDUCATION

PhD Geosciences,
Florida International
University, 2008

MS Geology,
University of New
Orleans, 2000

BS Geology, Tulane
University, 1996

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Board of Directors for
the Gulf Coast Ocean
Observing System

American Geophysical
Union

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2017-Present: Senior Vice President / Chief Scientist, The Water Institute

2015-2017: Science Director, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

2011-2015: Science Advisor and Coordination, United States Geological Survey

2000-2011: Hydrologist, United States Geological Survey



SELECTED PROJECTS

Long-Term Strategic Water Sustainability Planning. *Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission. (Ongoing).* Leading the development of a strategic plan for water resources sustainability in the greater Baton Rouge area utilizing structured decision making.

USACE Research & Development Strategy. *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) (2021).* Led an interdisciplinary team that facilitated the development of a strategy for elevating and coordinating programmatic research and development across the entirety of the USACE R&D portfolio.

Louisiana Climate Action Plan. *Louisiana Governor's Office of Coastal Activities (2021).* Project Director. The Institute is advising the Governor's Office through a one-year planning process to support the Climate Initiatives Task Force in developing a roadmap and specific actions to meet the state's ambitious goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This effort engages more than 140 multidisciplinary experts across the Task Force, four Advisory Groups, and six Sector Committees, as well as the public, throughout a transparent and collaborative planning process grounded in a Structure Decision Making (SDM) framework.

Resilient Houston. *Rockefeller Foundation, The City of Houston (2018-2020).* The Institute oversaw a multidisciplinary team of experts in the development of a comprehensive resilience strategy for Houston. The work aims to enhance the city's long-term vision to build resilience to the shocks – such as hurricanes and rainfall flooding – and stresses that can weaken the fabric of a city.

Data Synthesis. *Science for Nature and People Partnership (SNAPP) and National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS).* As part of the Coastal Restoration Working Group, is working to better define governmental agency needs for decision making, assessing past restoration projects, and developing tools that will help future decision making through comprehensive data assimilation and analysis.

Comprehensive Plan Development. *Restore the Gulf.* Lead scientist as part of the plan development for the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council.

Initial Funded Priorities Development. *Restore the Gulf.* Lead on developing the first set of restoration projects approved for over \$156 million in funding for the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council.

Restoration Monitoring Development. *Natural Resource Damage Assessment Process.* Support to the Department of Interior and Trustee Council post-Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill to develop monitoring practices and plans for restoration projects.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

1. DeAngelis, B.M.; Sutton-Grier, A.E.; Colden, A.; Arkema, K.K.; Baillie, C. J.; Bennett, R.O.; Benoit, J.; Blitch, S.; Chatwin, A.; Dausman, A.; Gittman, R.K.; Greening, H.S.; Henkel, J. R.; Houge, R.; Howard, R.; Hughes, A.R.; Lowe, J.; Scyphers, S.B.; Sherwood, E. T.; Westby, S. Grabowski, J.H. Social Factors to Landscape-Scale Coastal Restoration: Lessons Learned from Three U.S. Case Studies. *Sustainability* 2020, 12, 869.
2. Gittman RK, Baillie CJ, Arkema KK, Bennett RO, Benoit J, Blitch S, Brun J, Chatwin A, Colden A, Dausman A, DeAngelis B, Herold N, Henkel J, Houge R, Howard R, Hughes AR, Scyphers SB, Shostik T, Sutton-Grier A and Grabowski JH (2019) Voluntary Restoration: Mitigation's Silent Partner in the Quest to Reverse Coastal Wetland Loss in the USA. *Front. Mar. Sci.* 6:511. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2019.00511
3. Arkema K, Bennett, R, Dausman A, Materman, L. (2019) United States: Blending Finance Mechanisms for Coastal Resilience and Climate Adaptation chapter Green Growth that Works, chapter 14
4. Sutton-Grier, A.E.; Gittman, R.K.; Arkema, K.K.; Bennett, R.O.; Benoit, J.; Blitch, S.; Burks-Copes, K.A.; Colden, A.; Dausman, A.; DeAngelis, B.M.; Hughes, A.R.; Scyphers, S.B.; Grabowski, J.H. Investing in Natural and Nature-Based Infrastructure: Building Better Along Our Coasts. *Sustainability* 2018, 10, 523.
5. Dausman, A., et al. (2015). Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act) Initial Funded Priorities List. Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council.