

# Rural-11 September Regional Forum

## Panelists

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**LAWRENCE B. ADAMS** (*Facilitator*) is Executive Director at CMRPC. With a Master's Degree in Regional Planning from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 1978, he has over 35 years of experience in community land use and economic development from neighborhood to regional levels in Worcester County. He was assistant director with the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission and served as chair of the CMRPC's Executive Committee in the 1980's. He has participated on various boards including Planning Boards, an Industrial Foundation, United Way, Chambers of Commerce and Rotary, learning from and contributing to both public and private affiliations. His major accomplishments have been in leadership capacities, development of three industrial parks, job creation and regulatory bylaw implementation. He currently manages CMRPC's activities with a staff of about twenty-five dedicated planners. He is a resident of Barre, Massachusetts.

**ANNE GOBI**, State Representative for the 5th Worcester District, is the current Chair Joint Committee On Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture. Rep. Gobi is a graduate of Worcester State College and Massachusetts School of Law. Prior to her election as State Representative, Anne taught history at Ware and Leicester High School, was an adjunct professor at Nichols College, and practiced law. Anne was first elected as State Representative in 2001. She has received awards and recognition from GOAL, Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association, The Spencer Exchange Club, the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley, a service organization for business and professional women and others.

**DONNA BARON** serves as the Program Director for the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, with a focus on the Institute's initiatives to bring broadband to unserved citizens in Western Massachusetts. **MassBroadband 123** is a 1,200-mile fiber-optic network that will bring high-speed Internet access directly to over 1,200 key facilities in more than 120 western and central Massachusetts communities. For the past two decades, Donna has worked with diverse groups in higher education and state government to coordinate and implement a variety of collaborative technology projects and agreements. She formerly served as the Director of Information Technology for Five Colleges, Incorporated, where she directed the design and build of a 53-mile metropolitan area optical fiber network that connects several towns and Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith Colleges as well as the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Donna holds a B.A. in Geography from Clark University and a M.S. in Geography and Women's Studies from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

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**JOHN CLARKESON**, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Policy Advisor, was contributor to the Massachusetts Climate Change Adaptation Report published in 2011. He was chair and a principal report author of the Advisory Committee's Subcommittee on Local Economy and Government. Clarkeson has a widespread experience and knowledge in topics ranging from water, smart growth, land protection and climate change as well as stakeholder inclusion in policy development. He was Massachusetts' delegate to the recent forum sponsored by the Army Corps of Engineers in Washington, DC on the development of a national water policy. He was a framer of the Massachusetts Watershed Initiative and led the development of numerous innovative programs and grants to address water quality issues building strong partnerships with local environmental stewards. In addition to his current policy duties on dam and seawall financial assistance, sustainable water management, and water technology innovation, he serves as coordinator of EEA's student intern program.

**PHIL STEVENS** is an owner of the 1,000 acres Carter Steven dairy farm located in Barre. The farm has been in existence since 1938. Each day they milk 100 cows.. In addition to the farm, the Carter Stevens Farm Store has become a destination for people visiting Barre from all over the region looking for first rate ice cream and barbeque. This past summer they hosted the Warrior Dash obstacle race.

**CYNTHIA HENSHAW** has been the Executive Director of the East Quabbin Land Trust for the past seven years, focusing on land conservation and stewardship initiatives, organizational development, financial stability and community outreach. The East Quabbin Land Trust currently owns over 850 acres of land and holds conservation restrictions on 700 acres throughout the region. Cynthia is passionate about conserving the regional landscape and our role in stewarding the land that sustains us. Cynthia holds a Master in Forestry from the Yale Forestry School and BA in Biology from Colby College.

**TONY MARCOTTE** has over 20 years of experience in the civil engineering industry. His experience in design, survey, and client relationships make him an effective project manager for a wide variety of projects. Mr. Marcotte managed the civil engineering design and survey on projects of all sizes ranging from building additions to large warehouse facilities over 10 acres in size with Bedford Design Consultants for more than eight years. Mr. Marcotte is constantly advancing in the field of engineering by taking classes and seminars in an effort to keep current on the latest that the industry has to offer. Mr. Marcotte has been with MDP Development since June 2008 and is responsible of design permitting, approval and construction for all projects at MDP Development.

*Thanks to each of them for their participation in this evenings event!*