

Christopher E. Koerner, P.E.

*Candidate for Director, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District
Request for Fairfax County Democratic Committee Endorsement*

Professional Environmental Experience

During 5 years as a California regulator and 35 as an environmental consultant, I became an expert in the characterization and remediation of high-profile Superfund and other toxic waste sites. In addition to managing difficult contaminated groundwater transport challenges, many sites included the complex interrelation of groundwater and surface water, sensitive riparian/wetlands habitat, revegetation, and endangered/high-value species components, as well as often-contentious community relations conflicts. I developed a reputation for using my knowledge in the multi-disciplinary sciences (chemistry, biology, geology), engineering, practical construction, business, and regulatory insight, combined with an environmental ethic, to listen and develop strategies for complex environmental and sustainability problems, and then to lead teams to implement the solutions. Usually, the issues were further complicated because there was inadequate available funding to address the complete problem.

Professional Credentials

I have held Professional Engineering Registrations in 11 different US states, as well as other licenses on behalf of the large corporations where I was employed. This number of registrations is somewhat unusual, and represents the desire of corporate executives to have a senior, responsible, professional engineer-of-record oversee technical and business practices and minimize corporate liabilities for high-risk projects.

I have managed and helped solve difficult challenges at thousands of contaminated sites, ranging from Fortune 50 companies and government agencies, to individuals and small communities with Environmental Justice issues. I have had the privilege to serve on very high-profile expert panels at Hanford Nuclear Reservation, senior engineer for anthrax remediation testing at Hart Senate building, lead environmental engineer for value engineering at Ft. Detrick biohazard treatment plant, and have participated in hundreds of Technical Advisory Groups, community meetings, and briefing of local/state/federal government officials.

I managed and helped train a department of almost 100 professionals, and was both technical and administrative liaison to our subsidiary companies in Europe and South America. I was one of four US representatives to assist Chile in the formation of their environmental laws. I have also been a champion of, and served on professional panels for Green and Sustainable Practices. Recently, I have served as an expert on aquifer restoration and flood control for FEMA, conducting a series of webinars that reached over a thousand individuals in federal, state and local programs across the country. I also taught and chaired the Advisory Board for the Site Assessment and Remediation Program at UC Davis for 14 years.

Personal Experience Re: Soil and Water Conservation in Fairfax County

My awareness on local issues became focused 22 years ago when an upstream 21-home development caused severe erosion and sedimentation damage to the private Lake Martin watershed in Oakton. As Director of my community Homeowners Association, I worked over 5000 pro bono hours over 11 years leading the effort to restore our lake. When the county's consultant originally concluded there was minimal damage to the watershed, I authored a key technical rebuttal report that was used by Virginia DCR to direct the county consultant to redo their report; their final conclusion was that there was \$1.7 million in damage. I met with EPA Region III, resulting in their filing a federal enforcement action against the developer, requiring the

County to file and subsequently win a lawsuit against the developers. When the developer declared bankruptcy, and the lowest bid to dredge only 4,000 of the 20,000 cubic yards of sediment was over \$1.2 million (there was only \$356,000 of forfeited bonds available) I was asked by the Sully Supervisor if I was interested in dredging the lake myself. I met with newly-appointed Director of Stormwater Planning, Randy Bartlett, and his team and offered a practical, affordable solution. We negotiated an agreement, I hired a small contractor and, over a 14-month period we worked to dredge 20,000 cubic yards of sediment and restore 3,000 linear feet of riparian habitat (I sponsored two Eagle Scout projects) – for over \$3.5 million in total value. Randy refers to the Lake Martin project as a model on how the County and community can work cooperatively together.

I have also donated many pro bono hours providing stormwater guidance to other HOAs in Reston and McLean VA, and provided assistance to numerous individual homeowners throughout the county. In the eleven years dealing with the Lake Martin project, I worked with and became friends with several NVSWCD Directors and staff, many of whom are still with the organization. I greatly appreciate and respect their technical expertise, dedicated stewardship of the environment, and most especially, their moral support regarding Lake Martin. I currently support them as Associate Director, and would appreciate the opportunity and would consider it an honor to join as a Director to continue as stewards of our environment.

Registrations/Certificates

Registered Professional Engineer CA, VA, MD, WV (Inactive PA, NJ, AK, NV, WY, ID, MS)
Class A General Engineering Contractor License (California- Inactive)
Hazardous Substance Removal & Remedial Actions Certification (California-Inactive)
FEMA Incident Command System

Fairfax County – Master Naturalist
Fairfax County - Master Watershed Steward
Fairfax County - Volunteer Stream Monitor

Community Leadership

Chair – Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance Exemption Review Committee - current
Associate Director – Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District - current
Sierra Club – Great Falls Group – ExCom Chair, Vice Chair, Political Chair – 1999-2013
Fox Heritage HOA – Vice President 1997-Present

Honors/ Awards

Diplomat, American Academy of Environmental Engineers

Fairfax County Tree Commission	2010 - Friends of Trees Award
Northern Virginia Regional Commission	2007 - Community Appearance Award
Fairfax County	2001 - Environmental Excellence Award
George Mason University	1998 - Outstanding Executive MBA Graduate Award
Beta Gamma Sigma	1998 - Business Honor Society
University California, Davis	1995 - Excellence in Teaching and Outstanding Service
Radian Corporation	1992 - Corporate Outstanding Achievement Award
Chi Epsilon	1980 - Engineering Honor Society
Boy Scouts	1971 - Eagle Scout

Publications

Koerner, Christopher E., Chapter Author and Editorial Reviewer. “Principles of Environmental Sampling”. 2nd edition, American Chemical Society, Professional Reference Series, 1995.

Numerous professional papers and presentations given at conferences around the world