

# **John Bilotta**

## ***Curriculum vitae***

Senior Research and Extension Coordinator | Water Resources Center, University of Minnesota  
Extension Educator | Minnesota Sea Grant

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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### **EDUCATION**

2002 University of Minnesota – Department of Soil, Water, and Climate  
**M.S. Soil Science: Soil Fertility**

1993 University of Minnesota – College of Natural Resources  
**B.S. Natural Resources & Environmental Science: Soil Resources**

1991 St. Cloud State University  
**Studies in Biology, Environmental Science, and Public Relations**

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Senior Research and Extension Coordinator**  
**University of Minnesota Water Resources Center, 2019 – current**  
**Minnesota Sea Grant, Extension Educator, 2009 - current**

Lead and administer the Stormwater Research Program. Development and facilitate a portfolio of projects related to urban stormwater with primary responsibilities that include the acquisition and distribution of funds to support research, project coordination, conduct research, and facilitate technology transfer and distribution of research findings. Other responsibilities include administration of the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council, track legislative water policy, contribute to outcomes and impact reporting, and liaison between the Center, Minnesota Sea Grant, and the Extension Program. Extension Educator in water resources for Minnesota Sea Grant leading the Watershed Game program and efforts related to green infrastructure and stormwater including co-leading the Great Lakes Sea Grant Green Infrastructure Community of Practice.

**Extension Educator – Water Resources Management**  
**University of Minnesota Extension, 2007 – 2019**  
**Minnesota Sea Grant, 2009-current**

Program leadership for the development, implementation, instruction, and assessment for adult based stormwater education with specific primary responsibilities to lead the Northland NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials) Program in Minnesota and contribute to efforts of the Stormwater Education Program. Distinctive emphasis around natural resource and water management, stormwater management and policy, pollution prevention and mitigation, regulatory programs. Additional expertise and responsibilities in education product development and training for local and state water resource educators. Co-lead the Watershed Game program that includes a suite of tools, curriculum and education programming for watershed management and health. Lead the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council.

**Local Extension Educator – Natural Resources & the Environment**

**University of Minnesota Extension Service, 1999 to 2007**

Coordination, design, implementation, and teaching of natural resource educational programs designated under local water management and comprehensive plans for a diverse audience including K12, adults, organizations, and citizen groups. Specific emphasis around natural resource and water management, stormwater management & pollution, TMDL public outreach and participation, and K12 environmental education programs. Coordinate and lead projects as related to the above disciplines and as related to the implementation of the Carver County Water Management Plan, TMDL plans, and other Twin City and statewide programs.

**Director of Education**

**Earth Adventure Organization, 2004 to current**

Coordination, design, and delivery of science & geography standards based education programs. Development of supplemental study materials. Provide training to National Instructors. Write and submit grants as requested.

**Extension Educator – Crop Systems – Meeker County**

**University of Minnesota Extension Service, 1998-1999**

Provide leadership and facilitate forums for education and applied research for agricultural producers, crop advisors, and citizens. Assist in 4H and other county based programs.

**Soil Scientist**

**Midwest Independent Soil Samplers, 1996-1998**

Perform soil nutrient assessments for agricultural cooperatives, corporations, and individual producers using standardized sampling techniques coupled with the newest technologies of global positioning systems (GPS) and electronic grid-based & composite systems. Provide nutrient recommendations for GPS rate-controlled applicators. Field mapping of in-soil drainage systems. Management of data layers for geographical information systems (GIS) for large scale operations.

**Resource Conservationist**

**Dakota Soil and Water Conservation District, 1994-1996**

Provide technical and financial assistance to agricultural and rural land owners for the implementation of land and water stewardship practices. Implement and provide assistance for programs such as State-Cost Share, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Re-invest in Minnesota (RIM), Environmental Quality Insurance Program (EQIP) and others implemented through the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) or Federal Services Agency (FSA) organizations. Secondary, provide review of urban development plat proposals for erosion & sediment control measures.

**Resource Conservationist Intern**

**Benton Soil and Water Conservation District, 1991-1993**

Conduct field inventories for abandoned wells and drained wetlands. Build GIS data layers. Implement well sealing and wetland enhancement cost-share programs with owners.

## **DATES OF PROMOTION**

**2019 Senior Research and Extension Coordinator**

**2012 Associate Extension Professor-Water Resources**

**2007 Assistant Extension Professor -Water Resource Extension Educator**

## **PROGRAM LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Minnesota Stormwater Research Program and the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council** *(current role)*

Provide primary leadership and administration of the program and council. Efforts include coordinating and facilitating a statewide advisory board, garnering funds for research and education efforts, administering an annual request for proposals (RFP) and its review, ranking, and award process.

### **The Watershed Game Program** *(current role)*

Co-lead the development, instruction, and dissemination of the Watershed Game program – a curriculum and land use and water planning scenario tool. Efforts include continual refinement of the four versions (Stream, Lake, River, and Classroom) and training to educators and resource professionals across Minnesota and across the country. Current efforts also include developing a coastal zone module of the game for use in other parts of the country. Previous roles included assisting with K12 and youth water literacy programs including design and implementation of water field days for students, K12 teacher science enrichment staff development trainings, and instruction with the National Project WET – Water Education for Teachers curriculum.

### *(Previous leadership roles)*

### **Minnesota Northland NEMO Program – Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials**

I provide the central leadership for the Minnesota Northland NEMO Program since 2007. Primary responsibilities include the development, design, implementation, and evaluation of educational and training programs for elected and appointed leaders throughout the state with emphasis on the greater Twin Cities Metro Region. Supporting responsibilities include continual engagement with partners, leadership of interdisciplinary development and delivery teams, implementing strategic planning, conducting need assessments, and setting overall program direction, objectives, and priorities. Represent Minnesota in the National NEMO Network Program, one of 32 NEMO programs across the nation. I lead three specific components of the Northland NEMO Program:

- Provide education programs for local elected and appointed officials and community leaders.
- Execute NEMO Train-the-Trainer (T3)
- Develop new or revise existing education materials and tools.

### **Extension Stormwater Education Program**

My role and contributions include collaboration and assistance in the development, implementation, and instruction that focuses on providing researched-based training to stormwater professionals including designers, engineers, planners, contractors, and regulators. Trainings, certification courses, workshops, and conferences concentrate on providing skills to increase the use of, proper installation of, and maintenance of LID and stormwater management practices in communities. In regards to state, regional, and national conferences, my responsibilities include leadership in planning, financial management, content coordination, evaluation, and forging interdisciplinary internal and external partnerships. Examples of programs and efforts I lead, co-lead, or make significant contributions to include:

- Stormwater Practice Maintenance Certification Course
- Green Infrastructure for Clean Water Summit
- Minnesota Water Resources Conference
- Stormwater Research Priorities and Pond Maintenance Research Project

### **Watershed Education Program**

I contribute to leadership to address grand challenges revolving around water within the State and participate in a programmatic responses across major watershed basins in Minnesota. I share in the collaborative leadership of the Watershed Education Program (WEP) that combines other Extension and Sea Grant programs to strategically address education and research needs.

My contributions to leadership and collaboration include training and forging use of NEMO and stormwater education programs by other team members to expand outreach to watersheds across the state. In addition, I maintain and forge new working relationships with watershed units across the state and engaging in thoughtful planning with local and state agencies, stakeholder groups, and interested citizen leaders. I am a team member in multiple University teams and centers and external agencies including:

- Extension Water Resource Team
- Minnesota Sea Grant Program
- Water Resources Center
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

### **Full CV follows that includes a thorough profile of my contributions in:**

- Extension Teaching .....(pages 5-14)
- Grants and Financial Management.....(pages 15-16)
- Scholarship, Publications, Educational Materials and Research.....(pages 16 – 21)
- Professional Distinction *including presentations and awards*.....(pages 21 -28)
- Professional Development.....(pages 28 – 30)
- Service.....(pages 31-32)