

Committee: **Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee**

Organization/Sector represented:

Name: **Ian Arturo**

Occupation: **Graduate Student / Environmental Scientist**

Work experience: **During my undergraduate degree – 2010 to 2014 – I had a multitude of experiences related to the environment. For all four years, I worked as an Eco-Rep under the Allegheny College Sustainability Coordinator. Some accomplishments in this role included coordinating an annual campus-wide energy challenge and working on various waste minimization campaigns. Over the course of three different positions, I worked on the City of Meadville’s Stormwater Program. Some achievements in these roles included designing and building a rain garden, helping implement a stormwater fee, mapping the stormwater system with GIS, and ensuring compliance with Pennsylvania state regulations. From 2014 to 2018, I worked as an Environmental Scientist for PARS Environmental, and ultimately, Louis Berger. I worked on multiple contaminated waterbodies in the New York City area and on a stormwater green infrastructure project for federal agencies in Kansas. During this job, I refined hard and soft skills alike – everything from programming water auto-samplers to interacting with government clients. I am currently working as a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) at Western. In the Fall 2018 term, I was a GTA of Watershed Hydrology and this winter 2019 term, I am a GTA for Origin and Geology of the Solar System. Over the summer, I will be a Research Assistant (RA), working on my thesis and additional scientific studies with my research group.**

Education: **I graduated Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania in 2014 with a BS in Environmental Science and a minor in Values, Ethics, and Social Action (VESA). My senior thesis was titled “Metal concentrations in leachate from residential burn barrel ash, Crawford County, PA”. I am currently a Geology Master’s student at Western. My research focuses on microplastics in sediments of Lake St. Clair. One of the goals of my research is to tie sources of microplastics to areas of deposition in the lake. I will be presenting on my research at the International Association for Great Lakes Research (IAGLR) conference in June. I am a member of the Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences (AEISS), IAGLR, and I have my 40-Hour HAZWOPER training, which permits me to work on contaminated sites in the US.**

Skills: **I previously served on a municipal commission – the Water Control Commission (WCC) of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York – from 2014 to 2018. I have significant experience with urban planning, municipal governance, and environmental regulations. I also have knowledge of and/or skills related to the following: urban waterbodies, field sampling, data analysis, land use, environmental history, contamination, and plastics in the environment. This semester, I took Environmental Impact Assessment for Water Resources with Dr. Shah, who works with UTRCA. This class allowed me to understand the Canadian EIA/Municipal Class EA and how the regulatory framework differs from the US.**

Interest reason: **After receiving an email about the EEPAC vacancies and attending the City of London Advisory Committee info session in the fall, I became interested in the committee. I was emailed by Holly Sanderson (coordinator of the Environment and Sustainability collaborative program at UWO) regarding an opening in the committee. I am fascinated by governance, urban planning, and understanding the intersection between the built and natural environments. My previous experience working with municipalities has contributed to my desire to work with the City of London.**

Contributions: **Through my experience and knowledge in many areas of environmental science, I can be of great help to the committee. Specifically, my contributions will be most valuable with issues related to water, sustainability, waste, pollution, and urban planning.**

Past contributions: **As a member of the Water Control Commission (WCC) of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York, I provided expertise in response to a New York State herbicide treatment program. In this program, the State treated the submerged aquatic invasive Hydrilla verticillate in the Croton River, a tributary of the Hudson River. The Village of Croton-on-Hudson extracts its drinking water from a shallow aquifer under the Croton River. After months of meetings and deliberation, we granted a permit which required New York State to conduct a robust daily sampling program to ensure the safety of our water supply during season-long treatment periods. While a member of the WCC, I**

also used my expertise in stormwater management to ensure that proper erosion and sedimentation control devices were utilized and that proper stormwater best management practices were implemented for all disturbances within wetland buffer zones.

Interpersonal: In both academic and professional settings, I have had to work with others on essentially a daily basis. As a voting member on the Water Control Commission, all our votes were legally binding, and all our minutes were public record. As a result, when conflicts arose, it was critical for me to respect each member, even if my views and their views differed. One of the most important parts of being on any committee or commission is to remember that every member has a different set of skills and that everyone brings something useful to the table in different ways.

Interview interest: **Yes**