

Keynote Speakers



Opening Plenary Speaker: Wednesday, October 26, 2022

Peter Tomasi, Attorney

Foley & Lardner, LLP

Peter Tomasi is of counsel and a business lawyer with Foley & Lardner LLP, where he is a member of the firm's Environmental Regulation Practice and is co-chair of the Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG) Team. His practice focuses on regulatory compliance and renewable energy. Peter has further experience with general civil, commercial and intellectual property litigation.

He has a B.A. in Chemistry from the University of Chicago and law degree from Duke University.



Keynote Luncheon Speaker: Wednesday, October 26, 2022

Debra Shore, Regional Administrator

U.S. EPA Region 5

Debra Shore is responsible for overseeing environmental protection efforts in the Great Lakes states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin, as well as 35 federally recognized tribal nations. One of her roles is manager of EPA's Great Lakes National Program, in which she leads restoration and protection of the largest freshwater system in the world.

Prior to joining EPA, Shore was an elected member of the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, a \$1 billion agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management for more than five million people. She is a past chair and board member of the Great Lakes Protection Fund and served as board member and chair of the LGBTQ Victory Institute. An award-winning author, Shore founded Chicago Wilderness magazine, was a leader in the regional conservation consortium Chicago Wilderness and founded Friends of the Forest Preserves. Shore has been an active habitat restoration volunteer in oak woods and savannas, prairies and wetlands of local forest preserves for more than 25 years.

Shore was born in Chicago. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Goucher College in Baltimore with a degree in philosophy and visual arts. She earned master's degrees from Johns Hopkins University and Columbia College (Chicago).



Keynote Luncheon Speaker: Thursday, October 27, 2022

Preston Cole, Secretary

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)

We welcome Secretary Cole back to FET, as he last joined us in October 2019.

Appointed by Gov. Tony Evers in 2019, DNR Secretary Preston Cole directs statewide programs for environmental protection, natural resource management, outdoor recreation and law enforcement with an emphasis on diversity and service excellence.

Secretary Cole supports traditional conservation activities and environmental protection as well as connecting nontraditional audiences with opportunities to get outdoors. As a member of Gov. Tony Evers Climate Change Taskforce, Secretary Cole helped develop multi-faceted recommendations that combat climate change's adverse effects in Wisconsin.

Before becoming DNR Secretary, he was the Milwaukee Dept of Neighborhood Services Commissioner, Operations Chief for the Milwaukee Department of Public Works, Forester for the City of Milwaukee, Parks Superintendent for the City of St. Louis and Resource Forester for the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Secretary Cole credits participating in his local Future Farmers of America chapter during high school for sparking a life-long interest in forestry.