

# Megan Milliken Biven

+43 664 753 794 34 •  
[Megan.Milliken@gmail.com](mailto:Megan.Milliken@gmail.com) •  
[LinkedIn/meganmilliken/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/meganmilliken/) •

## EDUCATION

**University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy**  
Master of Public Policy, May 2010

**Relevant Coursework:** Microeconomics, Statistics, Environmental Economics, Benefit-Cost Analysis, State & Local Finance, Political Economy, Policy Approaches to Climate Change, Energy Policy, Political Institutions & Public Policy.

**Loyola University Chicago**  
Bachelor of Arts, English Literature (Minors: Philosophy & Theology), May 2005

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

- University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna, Austria  
Alternative Economic and Monetary Systems, 2019
- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management - Management Training, 2015
- Federal Acquisition Institute - Contracting Officer Representative Certificate Program, 2012
- Presidential Management Fellowship - Management Training Program 2010-2012
- Duke University, Nicholas School of the Environment - Duke Environmental Leadership Program, 2010

## PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**True Transition | 2021-Present**  
**Founder**

- Conducted a national survey of current and former American oil and gas workers on working conditions and transition preferences which resulted in over 1,600 responses. Wrote a report summarizing those findings and crafted a series of public policy recommendations.
- Consultation with White House Infrastructure and Department of Interior implementation teams on federal methane reduction grants. Partnered with trade unions, educational institutions, community organizations, and local government on the development of apprenticeship programs for implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and the Inflation Reduction Act.

**Decarbonization Consultant & Freelance Researcher | May 2018 – 2021**

- Consulting with environmental and labor non-governmental organizations and governments on the remediation of orphaned oil and gas infrastructure with efforts to lower greenhouse gasses.
- Organizing to enact a (self-written) federal statute to create an executive level agency, the Abandoned Well Administration, to directly employ oil and gas workers to identify, plug and remediate the 10 million plus oil and gas wells on American land and waters. Designed and wrote a pilot program linking unemployment to addressing orphan wells on Federal, State, and Tribal land for the state of New Mexico.
- Successfully led a grassroots mix of organizations and individuals to petition the Governor of Louisiana to formally request the establishment of Federal wind energy areas in the Gulf of Mexico. Partly due to our efforts the Department of the Interior has announced the region's first wind auction planned for August 2023. Working with partners to reestablish the American public dredge fleet to increase the frequency of coastal restoration projects and regenerate coastal wetland carbon sinks.

**U.S. Department of the Interior | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) | August 2010 – May 2018**

- Worked within the agency for eight years in various program offices with increasing responsibility.

**BOEM Office of Environment (OE)**

**Environmental Operations Supervisor | March 2018 – May 2018**

- Managed a team of scientists and analysts responsible for conducting Environmental Reviews of Outer-Continental Shelf (OCS) mid- and upstream oil and gas activities.

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- Led an effort to investigate, catalog, and revise a decades-old practice of allowing industry to abandon pipelines in place.

## **BOEM Office of Leasing and Plans (OLP)**

**Program Analyst** | October 2015 – March 2018

- Lead advisor to Regional Supervisor for the Office of Leasing and Plans. Helped develop the office's yearly budget, tracked and analyzed legislation, and wrote policy proposals and briefings.
- Represented the bureau at international meetings including a workshop with the Denmark Energy Administration on offshore wind energy best practices and hosted a delegation from Brazil's Petrobras.
- Researched, proposed, and wrote adopted oil and gas lease stipulation related to offshore orphaned oil and gas infrastructure.
- Helped lead the region's renewable energy strategy working group that conducted research of local supply chain, transmission and electrical grid needs and other related infrastructure.
- Pitched, planned, and coordinated the bureau's participation in the [Offshore Wind Executive Summit](#) and wrote the Regional Director's keynote speech.

## **BOEM Office of Environment**

**Environmental Protection Specialist** | August 2010 – October 2015

- Served as the regional Environmental Justice and Infrastructure Subject Matter Expert providing qualitative and quantitative analysis, including scenario analysis and socioeconomic impacts of the federal government's offshore energy program. Used inhouse MAG-PLAN, a two-stage input-output model to estimate employment, personal income, and similar economic impacts from OCS activities. Provided socioeconomic and energy analysis to both the marine minerals program and the emerging offshore wind program.
- Supported the Environmental Studies Program by planning and overseeing government contracted research. Acted as liaison between external and internal experts and senior managers. Designed yearly socioeconomic research agenda, contracted out, and managed various research teams including: [The Economic Benefits of an Improved Gulf of Mexico Observing System](#), [Subsistence In Coastal Louisiana: An Exploratory Study](#), and the [Economic and Geomorphic Comparison of OCS Sand vs. Nearshore Sand for Coastal Restoration Projects](#).

## **The Pontchartrain Conservancy**

**PMF Rotational Assignment** | January – June 2012

- Assisted in fundraising, advocacy campaigns, and education in support of the Pontchartrain Conservancy and the Louisiana coastal program.
- Performed field research and presented research under Dr. John Lopez on the Bohemia Spillway (a historic flood protection project in response to the 1927 flood).
- Conducted research and wrote reports on the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality enforcement of the Clean Water Act and a comparison of rapid-land building technologies in the Netherlands and the U.S.

## **City of New Orleans, Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness**

**Hazard Mitigation Intern** | May – August 2009

- Performed cost-benefit analysis for National Flood Insurance Program's repetitive loss properties eligible for elevation mitigation grants.
- Conducted fieldwork in repetitive loss zones in Orleans Parish and counseled eligible homeowners on available mitigation measures and products as well as the Flood Mitigation Assistance grant program.

## **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

- Biven, M.M. and Leo Lindner. (2023, March). The Future of Work and Energy in the United States: The American Oil & Gas Worker Survey. [https://www.truetransition.org/files/ugd/0ad80c\\_069ea867b3f044afba4dae2a1da8d737.pdf?index=true](https://www.truetransition.org/files/ugd/0ad80c_069ea867b3f044afba4dae2a1da8d737.pdf?index=true)
- Biven, M.M. and Virginia Palacios. (2022, November) Orphan well video series <https://commissionshift.org/news/orphaned-well-video-series/>
- Biven, M.M. and Virginia Palacios. (2022, January) Commission Shift: Eliminating Orphan Wells and Sites in Texas: A Toolkit for Redesigning the Railroad Commission's Oilfield Cleanup Program [commissionshift.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Eliminating-Orphan-Wells-and-Sites-in-Texas\\_CommissionShift.pdf](https://commissionshift.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Eliminating-Orphan-Wells-and-Sites-in-Texas_CommissionShift.pdf)
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (US DOI, BOEM), Biven, M. M. (2018).

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Decommissioning Liability and Financial Assurance Options (to minimize risk with increased offshore bankruptcies), Internal agency white paper.

- US DOI, BOEM, Biven, M. M. (2017). Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy and Action Plan, Internal agency white paper.
- US DOI, BOEM, Biven, M. M. (2017). Primer on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) Regulation on Deep Seabed Mining, Internal white paper.
- US DOI, BOEM, Biven, M. M. Socioeconomic Impacts of Proposed Royalty Rate Changes, Internal agency publication. 2017.
- Biven, M.M. (2014). A Legal & Cost Analysis of Rapid Land-Building Technologies in the Netherlands and Louisiana - Presented at the 2014 State of the Coast Conference, New Orleans, LA, USA.

## PUBLICATIONS IN THE MEDIA

- Biven, M.M. and Virginia Palacios, Ted Boettner (2022, June). The Fossil Fuel Industry Should Pay for Its Own Cleanup. The American Prospect. <https://prospect.org/environment/fossil-fuel-industry-should-pay-for-its-own-cleanup/>
- Biven, M.M. and Scott Eustis (2021, November). Guest column: An energy transition has begun, and it's taken Louisiana jobs in energy with it. [https://www.theadvocate.com/baton\\_rouge/opinion/article\\_37e419fc-3c21-11ec-ab1d-8b48aa5566d6.html](https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/opinion/article_37e419fc-3c21-11ec-ab1d-8b48aa5566d6.html)
- Biven M.M., (2021, January). The Wreckage of the Last Energy Epoch: Abandoned Wells & Workers. *Current Affairs Magazine*. <https://www.currentaffairs.org/2021/01/the-wreckage-of-the-last-energy-epoch-abandoned-wells-and-workers>
- Biven, M.M. (2020, May). Dredging Up the Past. *Current Affairs Magazine*. <https://www.currentaffairs.org/2020/05/dredging-up-the-past>

## SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES

- Poche, Kaylee (2022, July). Working toward the future: How offshore wind could help save Louisiana's energy industry long term. Gambit. [https://www.nola.com/gambit/news/the\\_latest/working-toward-the-future-how-offshore-wind-could-help-save-louisianas-energy-industry-long-term/article\\_02421a24-f7dd-11ec-acb3-7ffd4f3ee65c.html#//](https://www.nola.com/gambit/news/the_latest/working-toward-the-future-how-offshore-wind-could-help-save-louisianas-energy-industry-long-term/article_02421a24-f7dd-11ec-acb3-7ffd4f3ee65c.html#/)
- Mercogliano, Sal. (2022, April). What the Dredge! Megan Milliken Biven Discusses Why The US Needs Its Own Dredges! What is going on with shipping? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkF3RuQL2xM>
- Dermansky, Julie (2022, February). One Woman's Quest to Safeguard Federal Funds Meant to Clean up the Oil and Gas Industry's Mess. DeSmog. <https://www.desmog.com/2022/02/23/orphan-well-methane-memo-biven-landrieu-louisiana/>
- Sneath, Sarah. (2021, August). Louisiana needs sand to rebuild its coast. Old oil and gas pipelines are blocking the way. The Washington Post. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2021/08/05/louisiana-gulf-abandoned-pipelines/>
- SeaChange Radio Podcast Interview (2021, March). <https://www.cchange.net/2021/03/09/megan/>
- Marshall, Bob. (2019, September). A New Boom in Offshore Energy Jobs? Here's How it Might Happen. The Times Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate. [https://www.nola.com/our\\_drowning\\_louisiana\\_coast/article\\_5251ba5a-e080-11e9-9f51-db8981fe8a7d.html](https://www.nola.com/our_drowning_louisiana_coast/article_5251ba5a-e080-11e9-9f51-db8981fe8a7d.html)

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

- BOEM Unsung Hero Award, "Mover and Shaker," 2016: Peer-nominated award for exceptional service to fellow employees and dedication to the agency mission.
- BOEM Star Awards, 2016, 2017: Management award for quality of work.
- [Presidential Management Fellow](#), 2010-2012: An American government fellowship that recruits and tests candidates from a variety of academic disciplines into government service. The fellowship requires an additional 160 hours of formal classroom training over the two years and a work rotation outside of the host agency.
- Harris School Community Service Student Award, 2010: A student-nominated award that recognizes a fellow student committed to service in the greater Chicago community.
- [Amy Marie Bosman Fellow](#), 2009: A stipend awarded to a Harris School student (to fund an unpaid internship) who, in his or her academic and professional pursuits, demonstrates a dedication to enhancing social justice, political and economic conditions, and environmental resources in the local or global community.