

MATTHEW J. HELLER, PG

EDUCATION

M.S. Geology - North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, 1996

B.S. Geology - James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA, 1992

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

State Geologist and Division Director – Virginia Department of Energy, Charlottesville, VA (2022-present)

Lead the Division of Geology and Mineral Resources to promote economic development, public safety, and environmental protection in Virginia. Manage administrative staff and secure resources to enable successful completion of projects. Respond to requests for geologic information from citizens and outside agencies. Serve as custodian for state geologic repositories and member of Board for the Licensing of Wetland Professionals, Soil Scientists, and Geologists. Complete technical work to support projects.

Geologic Mapping Manager – Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy, Charlottesville, VA (2003-2022)

Led statewide geologic mapping and hazard assessment projects. Supervised technical and administrative staff, developed proposals, and managed grants and budgets. Completed geologic fieldwork and created maps and reports. Presented to a wide range of audiences and assisted many customers. Led STATEMAP Advisory Panel and facilitated strategic planning sessions. Served on DEQ committee for groundwater resources and VDEM committee for hazard mitigation. Supervised sales and publication staff and performed environmental impact reviews. Served as Acting Director in 2005 and Assistant Director from 2020-2022.

Lecturer – James Madison University Dept. of Geology and Environmental Science, Harrisonburg, VA (2012-Present)

Teach introductory geology course to 80 students each semester. Plan and deliver lectures, advise students, review assignments, and assign grades. Develop innovative classroom activities including a group project to explore controversial natural resource issues and a dynamic systems exercise using Chesapeake Bay crab winter dredge survey data. Co-developed a groundwater lab that is available on the National Association of Geoscience Teachers “Teach the Earth” Portal.

Regional Groundwater Supervisor – NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Mooresville, NC (2001-2003)

Led hydrogeologists and technicians to enforce state regulatory programs related to groundwater in eleven counties and the City of Charlotte. Managed section activities and budget. Met with affected landowners, responsible parties, consultants, health officials, attorneys, and the media. Provided technical guidance to staff, local governments, and the public. Served as a member of the Groundwater Section’s management team and wrote technical guidance, policies, and rule variances.

Hydrogeologist - NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Mooresville, NC (1996-2001)

Provided regulatory oversight of assessments and cleanups at high-risk groundwater contamination sites. Identified sources of contamination, reviewed comprehensive site assessments and corrective action plans, and met regularly with affected landowners, responsible parties, and consultants. Led a team that developed guidelines for the assessment of chlorinated solvent contamination. Served on a team that developed a statewide groundwater resource evaluation program. Worked cooperatively with the USGS to design and install the first groundwater research station in North Carolina’s Piedmont. Promoted in 1998 from a technician position inspecting underground storage tank facilities and waste application sites

Lab Instructor - University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, NC (1997-2003), and North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC (1994-1996)

Provided hands-on instruction to introductory geology laboratory students on a part-time basis. Duties included setting up labs, maintaining lab materials, assisting students with assignments, leading field trips, and assigning grades.

Contract Geologist – Spruce Pine, NC (1995)

Completed geologic mapping and collected samples to evaluate the mineral resource potential of a property in the Spruce Pine pegmatite mining district.

Geologist - North American Exploration, Inc., Charlottesville, VA (1992-1994)

Performed extensive field work to support diamond and gold exploration programs in the western, central, and southeastern U.S., including a one-year gold project in central Virginia. Sampled stream sediment in rugged terrain, installed soil grids, collected soil samples, oversaw trench installation, assisted with mapping and logging, described soil and rocks, drafted maps, and wrote reports.

CERTIFICATION

Licensed Professional Geologist #1622, Commonwealth of Virginia