

Meet The Alabama Environmental Management Commission

The Alabama Environmental Management Commission was established with the passage of the Alabama Environmental Management Act in 1982. The Act outlines specific duties for the Commission that include:

- Establishing rules, regulations, and environmental standards
- Developing environmental policy
- Hearing appeals of administrative actions
- Selecting the ADEM Director

A. Frank McFadden, Chair – Professional Engineer



A. Frank McFadden, P.E. was appointed to the Commission in the Professional Engineer position in October 2022. Mr. McFadden holds a B.A. from Asbury University in Biology and Chemistry, a B.S. and M.S. in Civil Engineering with an environmental specialty from Auburn University, graduate work from Vanderbilt University, and an M.A. from Wesley Biblical Seminary. He is a founding co-principal, along with his wife Hope, of McFadden Engineering, Inc. (1988), an environmental and civil engineering firm in Mobile, Alabama. McFadden Engineering specializes in innovative water and wastewater treatment, water quality studies, and groundwater remediation with awards from the Mobile Chamber and Partners for Environmental Progress (PEP). His early post-college experience began at Oak Ridge National Laboratory working with groundwater contamination investigations and extraction of nuclear fission isotopes from government test facilities. After graduate school, he was employed with ADEM as an engineer in the Water Quality Branch where he developed water quality models and field studies. He has been active in the development and implementation of innovative permitting strategies, water quality models, water and wastewater process design, both in the U.S. and developing countries working with EPA and a number of federal, state, and foreign agencies. He holds U.S. patents for a wastewater treatment process (OxyShark™) focused on advanced biological treatment for domestic and industrial wastewater and water reuse. He is a member of the Water Environment Federation, PEP, Manufacture Alabama, Auburn University Civil and Environmental Engineering Department Advisory Board, Instructor for wastewater operator certification, Mobile Chamber Board of Advisors, past president of the Asbury University Alumni Board, past Administrative Board member of Dauphin Way United Methodist Church, past BSA Troop Committee, youth baseball coach, and Airplane Owners and Pilot Association (AOPA). Mr. McFadden brings to the Commission extensive experience in the public and private sectors with engineering related to environmental issues.

Ruby L. Perry, Vice Chair – Chemist/Veterinarian



Ruby L. Perry, DVM, MS, PhD was appointed to the Commission in the Chemist/Veterinarian position in October 2018. Dr. Perry received a B.S. in Animal and Poultry Science and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree from Tuskegee University. She also holds the MS degree in Microbiology from Michigan State University. Dr. Perry completed the PhD degree in Educational Leadership from Keiser University. She completed the veterinary radiology residency at Michigan State University and is the first African American female board-certified veterinary radiologist in the American College of Veterinary Radiology (ACVR). Dr. Perry was on the faculty at Michigan State University for 20 years and received tenure as an associate professor of veterinary radiology before returning to Tuskegee University in 2007. She was appointed as interim dean in May of 2014 and dean in May of 2015 in the



College of Veterinary Medicine at Tuskegee University. Participation in various leadership programs has afforded her opportunities to serve in a variety of leadership positions. She served as program coordinator for the American College of Veterinary Radiology, section chief of Veterinary Radiology in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University, acting chair of the Department of Small Animal Medicine, Surgery and Radiology at Tuskegee University, interim chief of staff in the Office of the President at Tuskegee University, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Tuskegee University, Vice-Provost of Undergraduate Education at Tuskegee University, and two-term president of the Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association. Dr. Perry has received various honors and awards in teaching and leadership. She has served on many committees in the academic enterprise, in her specialty as a veterinary radiologist, and actively engaged in the tripartite mission in higher education of teaching, research and service. Dr. Perry brings academic and leadership expertise in veterinary medicine and education to the Commission.

H. Lanier Brown, II – Attorney



H. Lanier Brown, II, has served as a member of the AEMC in the Attorney position since April 2009. Mr. Brown received a B.S. degree in Economics from the University of Alabama in Birmingham and his law degree from the University of Alabama School of Law. Mr. Brown is a member and defense trial attorney in the Birmingham law firm Watkins & Eagar, PLLC, practicing in the areas of automotive and product liability and commercial, construction, employment and labor, healthcare, insurance, tort, and general litigation. He is a veteran lecturer on product and medical liability issues at local and national seminars. He is a member of six professional law associations and serves as an Adjunct Professor of Trial Advocacy at the University of Alabama School of Law. He was listed as one of “The Best Lawyers in America” for personal injury and product liability litigation in Birmingham Magazine and Alabama Super Lawyers. Mr. Brown brings highly respected legal experience and expertise to the Commission.

**John (Jay) H. Masingill, III –
Certified by National Ground Water Association
Certification Program/ Professional Geologist**



John (Jay) H. Masingill, III, has served as a member of the AEMC in the Certified by National Ground Water Association Certification Program/ Professional Geologist position since June 2018. Mr. Masingill holds a B.S. and M.S. in Geology from the University of Alabama. After service in the military, he began his professional career in 1974 as a Geologist in the Water Resources Division of the Geological Survey of

Alabama and in 1976 took a position as a Geologist with the State Oil and Gas Board of Alabama. He left state service to work as a Geologist for Tom Joiner and Associates, returning to the State Oil and Gas Board of Alabama in 1982 to serve as Assistant Oil and Gas Supervisor. He worked in that position for 28 years before retiring in 2010. In his role as Assistant Oil and Gas Supervisor, he supervised the Board's statewide oversight inspection program for oil and gas drilling, production, and plant processing operations and the geological and engineering technical review of docket items set for hearing before the Board. He worked in concert with the Board's attorney to construct legal and technical evidentiary based written orders reflecting Board hearing decisions. Prior to retirement, he held memberships in the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the Alabama Geological Society, and was a licensed Professional Geologist in the state of Alabama. He is a current member and past chair of the University of Alabama Geological Advisory Board. In addition, he served over 25 years as chair of one of the University of Alabama's premier student awards, the John Ramsey Award. He is a past Boy Scout and Venture Scout Leader and a former member of the Administrative Board and Chair of Youth Ministries at First United Methodist Church Tuscaloosa. Mr. Masingill brings to the Commission expertise in geology and geologically-related issues and a first-hand perspective from within a state agency.

Kevin McKinstry – Biologist/Ecologist



Kevin McKinstry was appointed to the Commission in the Biologist/Ecologist position in October 2018. Mr. McKinstry holds a B.S. in Forest Resources and Conservation from the University of Florida. He is a Certified Wildlife Biologist™ and has been employed with The Westervelt Company in Demopolis and Tuscaloosa, Alabama since 1989. He is currently the Recreation Manager for The Westervelt

Company having previously served as manager of a network of international sporting lodges and manager of hunting leases for Westervelt's 500,000 acres of managed property. Prior to Westervelt he worked at Kirchman Corporation Lake "X" Ranch in St. Cloud, Florida as a Certified Wildlife Wildlife Biologist and at the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission as a Wildlife Specialist. He has expertise in strategic natural resource management, team leadership and development, project management, budgeting and finance, conflict resolution, staff development, marketing, and networking. He is affiliated with numerous wildlife organizations including the Wildlife Federations in Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi, Safari Club International, the Wildlife Society, American Forest and Paper Association, The Quality Deer Management Association, National Deer Alliance, and National Wild Turkey Federation. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Alabama Wildlife Federation since 2017 and been the Vice Chairman of the Georgia Wildlife Federation Board of Directors since 2017. Mr. McKinstry brings the perspective of an experienced biologist and manager to the Commission.

Mary J. Merritt – At-Large



Mary J. Merritt was named to the Alabama Environmental Management Commission (AEMC) in the At-Large position in August 2012 by Governor Robert Bentley. Mrs. Merritt is a graduate of the Alabama Aviation Technical College and earned a Criminal Justice Certificate from Enterprise State Junior College. She has 35 years of experience in real estate sales and is involved with numerous real estate associations

including the Alabama Association of Realtors and National Association of Realtors. Mrs. Merritt is also a member of Wiregrass Board of Realtors (former President two times). Mrs. Merritt has more than 35 years of experience as the co-owner of C & M Income Tax, Bookkeeping and Payroll business in Enterprise. As an active member of her community, she has served with the Enterprise Chamber of Commerce since 2003 (former President 2012). She is a member and past President (three times) of Club Yesepoch, Inc. and chairs the outreach ministry for Beth-El Faith Church. Mrs. Merritt's involvement with the public in the real estate market, her small business experience, and community involvement bring to the Commission valuable insight into the lives of many of Alabama's citizens.

J. Patrick Tucker – Physician



J. Patrick Tucker, MD was appointed by Governor Ivey to the AEMC in the Physician's position in November 2023. Dr. Tucker received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Chemistry from the University of Alabama Birmingham. While at UAB, he worked in the Microbiology Lab performing research on bacteria being used to degrade toxins found in industrial waste water. Following his time in

Birmingham, he received a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of South Alabama College of Medicine. Tucker completed his internship and residency in Family Medicine at the UAB Huntsville Hospital residency program. After residency training, his professional career began as a founding partner of Athens Limestone Medical Associates in 1994. He moved home to his farm in Marshall county in 2002 and founded Riverbend Family Medicine. He holds active staff privileges at Highlands Medical Center where he serves as Chief of the Department of Family Medicine. He also currently serves as a board member for Highlands Medical Center and for the Tennessee Valley Independent Physician Association. Past board positions include Highlands Medical Center Foundation and Athens Limestone Boys and Girls Club. Along with his busy medical practice, he serves as Medical Director of Aveanna Hospice in Scottsboro. Professional memberships include the American Academy of Family Physicians, the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, Alabama Academy of Family Physicians, and the Jackson County Medical Society. Other memberships include the Alabama Farmers Federation and the Alabama Cattleman's Association. He is also a member of St Jude's Catholic Church. As a respected Physician, Dr Tucker brings to the Commission his scientific background and the experience of numerous leadership positions.