



Advancing the science and standards of practice of river restoration through education

## New Board of Directors Candidate Biography Form

**Board Candidate:** Tessa Artruc, EIT

**Affiliation:** Restoration Engineer, ICF

**Location:** Seattle, Washington, USA

**Focus/Specialties:** Water resources engineering, fluvial geomorphology, terrestrial and aquatic connectivity, traditional ecological knowledge, and climate resilience.

**Specialties:** My academic and professional background is in hydrologic, hydraulic, and sediment transport modeling. My project experience is primarily related to river and wetland design for flood management, habitat restoration, and regional connectivity. In particular, I've been involved in the development of nature-based solutions as an approach to the evolving climate, urbanization, and ecological needs of communities from the federal to city-level.

**Biographical Sketch:** In my personal experience, I've served on the Board for the Marys River Watershed Council for the past 4 years. During this tenure I've acted as the Oregon State University liaison, secretary, and participant in several sub-committees. Serving on this Board has been an opportunity to support voluntary stewardship and educational outreach for all folks within the watershed. Professionally, I'm an engineer-in-training with over 3 years of experience with an international environmental consulting firm. I've supported multi-disciplinary teams at riverine and coastal sites across the United States on all stages of a project lifecycle. Nature-based solutions are currently the forefront of my collaborations with rural communities, indigenous groups, federal agencies, and stewardship organizations.

**Statement of Interest:** I was first involved with RRNW at the 2020 Symposium as a student intern. As a young engineer, this internship was an important introduction to the regional river restoration community and let me give back by providing technical support during the conference. My experience as an intern was very rewarding and made me more aware of how opportunities to join communities like this can be so crucial for folks at the beginning of their career. If elected to this Board, I would be interested in the roles of VP-Programs trainee and Treasurer trainee, or similar. The VP-Programs trainee position would work closely with the various Board members that develop the Symposium content and allow me to contribute an early-career perspective to the planned topics and courses. The Treasurer trainee position provides an interesting opportunity to support RRNW's sustainability goals and initiatives, which align with the finance-related experiences I've had with the Marys River Watershed Council. I believe one of RRNW's most important missions is to exchange ideas and information within our field, and the VP-Programs/Treasurer trainee positions are two key tracts I could pursue to promote inclusivity and belonging at this organization.