Jennifer Hauxwell, Ph.D., began conducting applied water research 30 years ago, and for the past 16 years, has provided leadership, strategic planning, and supervision for the scientific, collaborative, and administrative duties associated with successfully implementing both the University of Wisconsin–Madison’s Aquatic Sciences Center programs as well as the Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Research program at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, both with missions to advance science to support communities dependent upon our water resources.

She has a deep passion for water and science, with a love of both born and nurtured in the Great Lakes region. Hauxwell received a bachelor’s of science degree in Biology and a secondary teaching certificate in Biology and Chemistry from the University of Michigan.

She completed her doctoral degree at the Boston University Marine Program at the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory and a postdoctoral position at the University of Florida.

For about 20 years, she conducted basic and applied research in various states and countries, in freshwater and marine systems (lakes, rivers, springs, wetlands, estuaries, and salt marshes), across latitudinal gradients, and under various themes, including: landscape ecology, eutrophication, trophic interactions, ecosystem restoration, invasive species ecology, nutrient and carbon cycling and interactive effects of climate, and ecological monitoring and modeling.

She has directly supervised and supported 146 professional scientific research staff and has mentored dozens of students and postgraduate fellows working on research projects that span topics from paleolimnology to muskellunge genetics, and she has logged over 2,000 hours under water studying aquatic systems.

She has served on the state of Wisconsin’s fisheries management and water resources management policy teams and currently serves on the Governor’s Council for Invasive Species. As a research program leader, she has administered $39 million in research dollars across 292 research projects conducted either by her staff or by PIs that received grant funds on research initiatives that she coordinated through Wisconsin Sea Grant and the University of Wisconsin Water Resources Institute. For the past decade, she has helped to develop Water@UW-Madison as an organization that connects over 170 faculty and staff across campus. In her spare time, Hauxwell enjoys spending time with her partner, Dave, and kids Miles, Mars, and Kiersten, attending to their hobby farm, and cooking, swimming, and hiking.

From Jen, “My personal experiences and natural curiosity coupled with a deep concern for both the health of our waters and people has led me to this career, and it would be a privilege for me to provide leadership toward a mission that has been so deeply meaningful to me throughout my lifetime.”