

LSP Association 2024 Board of Director Elections Candidate Statement



Lori A. McCarthy, LSP

Associate

O'Reilly, Talbot & Okun Associates, Inc.

I am an Associate at O'Reilly, Talbot, and Okun Associates, Inc. (OTO), where I have been the Environmental Team Leader since 2022. Prior to joining OTO, I was a senior project manager at Atlas Technical Consultants (2016-2022) and Environmental Compliance Services (1999-2016). I have Bachelor of Science degrees in Biochemistry and Environmental Science from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. I became licensed by the Board of Registration of Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup Professionals (LSP Board) in 2019. That same year, I joined the Western Massachusetts LSPA Committee. I have enjoyed collaborating with my committee members to bring training and networking opportunities in the Western Region and contributing to the annual meetings between the LSPA and MassDEP Western Regional Office staff to discuss regulations and guidance impacting the practice of our members.

I am originally from Poland, Maine, which is a small town just outside of the former mill towns of Lewiston and Auburn. The early days of my environmental career found me traveling across Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Massachusetts to perform environmental sampling and monitor remediation systems. These experiences exposed me to the transformative power of Brownfields redevelopment in both urban and rural communities. I have been fortunate to be part of the redevelopment teams for several properties in central and western Massachusetts. Contributing to projects that result in opportunities for housing, education, health care, employment, and access to open space to the people in our Commonwealth is especially fulfilling to me.

If elected to the LSPA Board, I would put my efforts toward both recruitment and retention of membership to the LSPA. For more than 30 years, LSPs have been critically important in returning unusable or underutilized properties back to beneficial use through our assessment and remediation of releases of oil and hazardous materials. We are seeing the beginning of a wave of retirement of LSPs as we enter this third decade. We risk losing decades of collective knowledge if we do not engage retiring LSPs in the development and mentorship of new professionals. At the same time, I believe it is important to encourage professionals entering consulting or other associated fields to be involved with the LSPA, and so I would also support additional outreach to the many colleges and universities within the Commonwealth to foster early interest in becoming an LSP. I see this outreach as a critical step in increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion in our ranks.

I thank the LSPA Nominating Committee for considering me for the Board of Directors.