Natural hazards, such as floods and wildfires, cause millions (in some cases, billions) of dollars in damages yearly in the United States and are predicted to become more extreme in the future from climate change. To mitigate the impacts from climate change, communities, with support from state and federal agencies, must assess their economic, environmental and social vulnerabilities and risks: develop and implement resiliency action plans; and educate the public about the potential impacts from climate change. When proper planning is combined with an engaged community, the chances of coping sustainably with future extreme weather patterns will be greatly enhanced. Mr. Richardson will explain how Massachusetts has developed a proactive approach to help communities become more resilient to climate change through the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program.

Mr. Richardson is the Executive Vice President of Green International Affiliates, Inc. (Green), a 100-person civil/structural engineering firm located in Westford, MA. Mr. Richardson has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Lowell (’85). He is a licensed Professional Engineer in six states and has over 30 years of experience. Mr. Richardson is a Certified Floodplain Manager with the Association of State Floodplain Managers, a LEED Accredited Design Professional with the U.S. Green Building Council, and an accredited Sustainability Professional with the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure.