

SPEAKER INFORMATION

Alyssa Dausman, Ph.D.

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Alyssa Dausman, Ph.D., is senior vice president and chief scientist at the Water Institute, an independent non-profit applied research organization helping communities make better decisions about some of the world's most complex water and environmental challenges. She oversees the institute's scientific research, helping governments, communities and businesses translate science into practical decisions that protect people, economies and ecosystems.

For more than 25 years, Dr. Dausman has worked at the intersection of science, public policy, and decision-making that addresses real-world challenges. Her career has taken her from mapping groundwater resources in Haiti to leading restoration science for the Gulf Coast after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. She has advised federal and state leaders on ecosystem restoration, coastal resilience, and water management.

Dr. Dausman has taught and collaborated with scientists worldwide and has spoken internationally on water management, restoration, and structured decision-making at the United Nations Groundwater Summit. Honored by her academic peers, she received Tulane University's 2026 Science and Engineering Outstanding Alumna Award. She also has been selected as the 2026 Newcomb Alumna of the Year at Tulane.

A supporter of advancing educational opportunities and networking, Dr. Dausman is a director on the Newcomb Alumnae Association Board of Directors. An avid yoga practitioner, she also volunteered for more than 10 years teaching yoga to active-duty soldiers on the Gulf Coast with the Warriors at Ease program. She was recognized by Naval Special Warfare for the program with the Commemorative Service Award in 2020.

Through her work, Dr. Dausman continues to explore an urgent question: How can science inform good decisions when the future is uncertain? She draws on decades of experience in disaster recovery, ecosystem restoration, water management, and applied science to explore how connecting evidence, values, conflicting interests, and people leads to better actionable decisions for restoration, water governance, and community resilience.