



MONIKA LESKA

Sr. Proposal and Project Specialist

Monika Leska, Sr. Proposal and Project Specialist, is responsible for managing the discovery, production, and submission of proposals while maintaining accurate data on the status of proposals across The Water Institute. Monika has over 15 years of experience acquiring and managing projects within non-profit, government, and corporate environments. She obtained her B.A. in Mediterranean studies and her B.S. and M.S. in Organization and Management of Tourism and Recreation. She has also volunteered with environmental and climate organizations for over 13 years. With a background in project and proposal management, funding strategy, and environmental work, Monika brings a unique understanding of The Institute's project management needs to her position.

ORGANIZATION ROLE

Sr. Proposal and
Project Specialist

PROJECT ROLE / FOCUS AREAS

Project management

Strategic planning

Accounting

EDUCATION

MS, Organization and
Management of
Tourism and
Recreation, Eugeniusz
Piasecki University of
Physical Education,
2003

BS, Organization and
Management of
Tourism and
Recreation, Eugeniusz
Piasecki University of
Physical Education,
2001

BA, Mediterranean
Studies, Jagiellonian
University, 2007

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Nonprofit
Accounting
Professional

Monika's experience in organization-wide fiscal management, streamlining workflows, technical editing, and grant tracking tool building and implementation further strengthens The Institute's ability to secure and manage projects effectively and identify where gaps in process efficiencies can be addressed. Her process optimization and financial oversight skills contribute to The Institute's long-term strategic priorities and ensure projects align with funding priorities and compliance standards without duplicating efforts. Monika is currently pursuing a highpointing of the continental United States with 19 US state peaks summited so far.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2025–Present: Sr. Proposal and Project Specialist, The Water Institute

2024–Present: Fellow, The Climatebase Fellowship

2024–Present: Fellow, Onepointfive – Sustainability Consulting Accelerator

2023–Present: Fellow Regenintel – Regenerative Intelligence

2023–2024: Project Manager & Team Co-Lead, The Work on Climate

2022–2025: Managing Director, New Orleans Film Society

2022: Interim Executive Director, New Orleans Film Society

2016–2022: Director of Finance and Operations, New Orleans Film Society

2012–2013: Director of Operations, New Orleans Film Festival

2010–2015: Box Office Manager, Membership Coordinator, Hospitality
Coordinator, and Hiring Manger, New Orleans Film Festival

2003–2008: Special Events & Project Manager, Polish Tourist Organization