



2017 State of the Bay Conference

September 27, 2017

Doubletree Hotel and Conference Center
1 Wenona Park Place
Bay City, Michigan



8:00AM—8:30AM Registration/Continental Breakfast

8:30AM—8:40AM Welcome and Introduction

Speakers: Ed Clements, 8th Ward City Commissioner, City of Bay City and Tom Cook, The Cook Family Foundation / Friends of the Shiawassee River

8:40AM—9:15AM Keynote: Water Quality in Saginaw Bay and Lake Erie: Understanding the Problems and Solutions

Speaker: Dr. Jeff Reutter, Special Advisor, Ohio Sea Grant College Program

9:15AM—10:15AM Breakout Session I

E*STEM—Bringing STEM Education to Saginaw Bay (Environmental Education)

Speakers: Jeff Collier, Au Gres-Sims School District, Placed-Based Education and Saginaw Bay stewardship; Leyla Sanker, UofM-Flint, Discovering Place program and Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative; and Autumn Mitchell, BaySail, e-STEM Education on Saginaw Bay's Education Schooner

Moderator: Shirley Roberts, BaySail

Showcase Panel: Green Development: Connecting our Rivers to People (Community Development)

Speakers: Greg Yankee, The Little Forks Conservancy, Averill Site Restoration, Protection and Education; Daren Kaschinske, City of Frankenmuth, Importance of Community Access to Rivers; and Phil Hathaway, Friends of the Shiawassee River, Building a Water Trail & Network of Access

Moderator: Jane Fitzpatrick, EMCOG

Agriculture and Saginaw Bay (Watershed Management)

Speakers: Mary Fales, The Nature Conservancy, New Approaches to Agricultural Conservation in Saginaw Bay; Tom Young, MDARD, Saginaw Bay and Michigan Agriculture Environment Assurance Program; and Audrey Schwing, MDEQ, Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations Update

Moderator: Jim Hergott, Saginaw Bay RC&D

10:15AM—10:30AM Break

10:30AM—11:45AM Breakout Session II

Higher Education Focus & Research on Saginaw Bay (Environmental Education)

Speakers: Dr. Dave Karpovich, SVSU, Saginaw Bay Water Quality Update; Dr. Don Uzarski, CMU, Saginaw Bay Coastal Wetlands Project; (Speaker TBD) Improving Water Quality Targets in the Saginaw Bay

Moderator: Danielle Casavant, The Conservation Fund

Water Trails, Ecotourism and Beaches (Community Development)

Speakers: Frank Starkweather, Saginaw Bay Water Trail Alliance, Regional Water Trail Project; Laura Ogar, Bay County, Saginaw Bay Beachfront and River Access; and Sondra Severn, Flint River Watershed Coalition, Flint River Paddles

Moderator: Jonathan Jarosz, Heart of the Lakes

Our Saginaw Bay Fisheries (Watershed Management)

Speakers: Dave Fielder, MDNR, Status of Saginaw Bay's Fishery; Bretton Joldersma, MDEQ, Saginaw Bay Spawning Reef Project; and Matt Herbert, The Nature Conservancy, Reconnecting Saginaw Bay's River Systems

Moderator: Ed Clements, City of Bay City

Choose 1 of 3

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12:00PM—1:00PM Lunch and Networking

Speaker: Sheila Stamiris, City of Frankenmuth, Funding Options and Complex Projects, Frankenmuth “Fish Wish” Project

Introduction: Jim Barcia, Bay County Executive

1:00PM—2:15PM Breakout Session III

Choose 1 of 3

Saginaw Bay Education (Environmental Education)

Speaker: Lee Koski, SVSU Saginaw Bay Environmental Science Institute, SVSU Mobile Research Lab Tour

Shoreline / Riverfront Development (Community Development)

Speakers: Rob Vandemark, City of Byron, Small Communities and a Focus on their Rivers; Tom Miller Jr., Saginaw Future, The Saginaw River as a Key Community Attribute; Amy McMillan, Genesee County Parks, Flint River Restoration Project; and Chelsea Rowley, Momentum Midland, From Brownfield to Riverfront Park

Moderator: Ryan Londrigan, MDEQ

Showcase Panel (Watershed Issues and Management)

Speakers: Julie Spencer, Gratiot County Conservation District, Failing Septic System ID project; Shoron Cooper, Bay City Wastewater Treatment Plant, CSOs and Saginaw River Impacts; and Carey Paquette, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Tribal Environment Program

Moderator: Laura Ogar, Bay County

2:15PM—2:30PM Break

2:30PM—3:45PM Breakout Session IV

Choose 1 of 3

Showcase I: Environmental Education (Environmental Education)

Speakers: Lionel Grant, Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge (invited); Valerie Blaschka, MDNR, Saginaw Bay Visitor’s Center; and Mark Stephens, MSU, Project Fish and engaging students in fishing Saginaw Bay

Moderator: Kip Cronk, Michigan Sea Grant

Dams / Dam Removal (Community Development)

Speakers: Janet VanDewinkle, Genesee County Parks, Flint River Dam Removals; Merilee Lawson, City of Corunna, Building Community Support for Dam Removal and Recreation on the Shiawassee River; and Brad Jensen, Huron Pines, “Writing the Book” For Small Dam Removal in the Saginaw Bay Watershed

Moderator: Michael Kelly, The Conservation Fund / Saginaw Bay WIN

Showcase II (Watershed Issues and Management)

Speakers: Bill Wright, Partnership for Saginaw Bay, Saginaw Bay Area of Concern Update; Chuck Sandro, Healthy Pine River, Pine River Remediation Update; and Tittabwassee River Remediation Project (speaker TBD)

Moderator: Charlie Bauer, MDEQ

4:00PM Wrap-Up and Adjourn

Speakers: Tom Cook, The Cook Family Foundation / Friends of the Shiawassee River; Michael Kelly, The Conservation Fund / Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network; and Blessing of the River—Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe (invited)

4:45PM Saginaw River Cruise and Reception—Appledore Tall Ship

Sponsored by The Conservation Fund and North Peak Brewing Company and Jolly Pumpkin Artisan Ales
Space is limited—please see registration site at www.stateofthebay2017.org for more information.