



## Michigan's State of the Western Lake Erie Basin Conference

Tuesday December 12th | 9 am – 4:30 pm

Adrian Tobias Center at Adrian College

Ritchie Marketplace, Adrian, MI 49221

### Meeting Objectives:

- Strengthen community through networking
- Explain how and why we measure phosphorus loads, and how the data can be used to make decisions
- Update on Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), and Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) activities and plans
- Share Science Panel recommendations
- Domestic Action Plan (DAP) update – how the state is using input from the Western Lake Erie Basin Advisory Group and Science Panel

### 8:00 AM: Check-in and informal networking

- Coffee and light breakfast available

### 9:00 AM: Welcome

Dr. Alison Bressler, University of Michigan Water Center

- Logistics and process for the day
- Community guidelines

### 9:05 AM: Introduction

Michelle Selzer, Western Lake Erie Basin Strategist, MDARD

- Purpose and history of Michigan's Domestic Action Plan (DAP) for Lake Erie

### 9:20 AM: 10 Elements of Successful Adaptive Management

Rich Batiuk, CoastWise Partners

### 9:30 AM: Session 1: What progress have we made so far?

Speakers in this session will demonstrate how Michigan has taken steps as part of their Domestic Action Plan to reduce phosphorus pollution into Lake Erie.

- Point Source Load Reductions
  - Phil Argiroff – Acting Director, Water Resources Division, EGLE
  - Majid Khan – Director, Wastewater Operations, Great Lakes Water Authority
- Nonpoint Source Monitoring Strategy
  - Michael Alexander – Manager, Surface Water Assessment Section, EGLE
  - Thad Cleary – Agricultural Specialist, Water Resources Division, EGLE
  - Peter Vincent – Watershed Planning Coordinator, Water Resources Division, EGLE

### 10:20 AM: Morning Networking Break

### 10:50 AM: Session 2: Engaging with Producers

Speakers in this session will provide examples of how state and local agencies bring conservation practices to producers/farmers in the Western Lake Erie Basin.

- Shelby Burlew – Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program Verifier, MDARD
- Tom Van Wagner – Field Technician, Lenawee Conservation District

### 11:20 AM: [Session 3: Approaches to Phosphorus Monitoring](#)

This panel discussion by scientists who study phosphorus in the Western Lake Erie Basin will be moderated by Dr. Silvia Newell – Director, Michigan Sea Grant and Professor, University of Michigan

#### Panelists:

- Dr. Laura Johnson – Director, National Center for Water Quality Research, Heidelberg University
- Dr. Jim Hood – Associate Professor, The Ohio State University
- Jeremiah Asher – Assistant Director, Michigan State University Institute for Water Research
- Dr. Ehsan Ghane – Associate Professor and Extension Professor, Michigan State University

### 12:00 PM: Lunch

#### 12:45 PM: Lunch Keynote Speaker

Dr. Tim Boring, Director, MDARD

### 1:10 PM: [Session 4: Emerging Solutions and Support](#)

Speakers in this session will discuss emerging solutions and support for nonpoint source phosphorus management.

- Kali Rush – Regional Biologist, Ducks Unlimited
- Dr. Jason Rowntree – Director, Center for Regenerative Agriculture, Michigan State University
- Clint Nester – Consultant, Nester Ag, LLC
- Jeremiah Asher – Assistant Director, Michigan State University Institute for Water Research

### 2:20 PM: Afternoon Networking Break

#### 2:50 PM: Advisory Group Input

Dr. Alison Bressler, University of Michigan Water Center

### 3:00 PM: [Session 5: WLEB Science Panel Report](#)

- Dr. Steve Hamilton – Senior Scientist, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies and Professor Emeritus, Michigan State University
- Fred Sklar – Director, South Florida Water Management District, Everglades Ecosystem Assessment Section and CEO, Sklar Environmental Associates
- Dr. Adam Reimer – Outreach and Evaluation Scientist, National Wildlife Federation
- Rich Batiuk – co-founder CoastWise Partners, retired US Environmental Protection Agency
- Randy Dell – Policy and Incentives Strategy Manager, The Nature Conservancy
- Dr. Silvia Newell – Director, Michigan Sea Grant and Professor, University of Michigan
- Jeremiah Asher – Assistant Director, Institute of Water Research, Michigan State University
- Dr. Margaret Kalcic – Associate Professor, University of Wisconsin
- Dr. Gregory Dick – Director, Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research, University of Michigan

### 4:05 PM: DAP Team Presentation

- Dr. Tammy Newcomb, Senior Executive Assistant Director, MDNR
- Dr. Andrew Bahrou, Lake Erie Coordinator, ELGE
- Michelle Selzer, Western Lake Erie Basin Strategist, MDARD

### 4:25 PM: Wrap Up

Michelle Selzer, Western Lake Erie Basin Strategist, MDARD

### 4:30 PM: Adjourn