



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, Flint River Corridor Alliance, Reimagining the Flint River; 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’s Hamilton Dam Project; 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

Space is limited—please see registration site at www.stateofthebay2017.org for more information.