

August 4 - Pre-Conference Activities

12:45pm	Meet for Field Tour (directions will be supplied)
1:00pm	Depart for Field Tours (time subject to change)
6:00pm	Networking Reception at Eberhard Center (time subject to change)

August 5 - Conference

7:30am	Registration and Continental Breakfast		
8:30am	Welcome and Opening Plenary: Grand Rapids Mayor, George Heartwell, and John Kosco, Tetra Tech – <i>Green Infrastructure: How did we get here?</i>		
9:45am	BREAK – Move to breakout sessions		
Breakout Sessions	Finance and Policy	Stormwater and Flood Management	Green Infrastructure at the Regional Scale
10:00am	<i>Municipal Stormwater Policy and Financing Panel Discussion</i> with Brenda Moore, Muskegon County Drain Commissioner; Chuck Hersey, Public Sector Consultants; Ryan Cotton, City Manager, City of Holland	<i>Low Impact Development (LID) Design for Stormwater Management</i> - Dr. Donald Carpenter, Lawrence Technological University; Mike Lunn, City of Grand Rapids	<i>Preserving Critical, Functional Green Infrastructure</i> – John Scholtz, Ottawa County Parks; April Scholtz, Land Conservancy of West Michigan; Dr. Paul Isely, GVSU
11:10am	<i>Creative Stormwater Financing – A Community Case Study</i> - Kathy Evans, WMSRDC; Cory Connolly, Levin Energy Partners	<i>LID for Flood Control and Wetland Habitat Restoration</i> - Dan Callam, Outdoor Discovery Center Macatawa Greenway; Erin Segar, NRCS; Brian Zuber, LGROW	<i>How to Incorporate Greenways into Land Use Plans and Placemaking</i> - Jason Latham, MDOT; Annamarie Bauer, MDNR; Wendy Ogilvie, GVMC
12:15pm 1:00pm	LUNCH – Networking/Exhibitors Speaker: Dave MacKenzie, Hortech		
Breakout Sessions	Finance and Policy	Stormwater and Flood Management	Green Infrastructure at the Regional Scale
2:00pm	<i>Costs and Benefits of Green Infrastructure and Stormwater Management Retrofits; Implementing Green Infrastructure to Build More Resilient Communities</i> – Bob Newport, U.S. EPA; Dr. Haris Alibašić, City of Grand Rapids.	<i>Hazard Mitigation Plans and Green Infrastructure Implementation Opportunities</i> - Stephen Carlson, WMSRDC; Carrie Rivette, City of Grand Rapids; Jen Lawson, City of Ann Arbor	<i>Farm Land Open Space Preservation (Healthy Waters, Working Farms: For Future Generations)</i> - Luke Meerman, Ottawa County Farmland Preservation Board; Denny Heffron, Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board; Brian Huggett, Potawatomi RC&D
3:00pm	BREAK – Move to Plenary Session		
3:15pm	Plenary Session; David Yocca, Conservation Design Forum		
3:45pm	ADJOURN		



8:30 – 9:45 WELCOME AND OPENING PLENARY

George Heartwell, Mayor of Grand Rapids - Mayor George Heartwell took office in 2004 and is in his third term as Mayor of Grand Rapids. During his tenure, city government has implemented a variety of environmental measures, including the purchase of renewable resource energy, the use of alternative fuels in city vehicles, and continued attention to water quality in the Grand River. Additionally, the city has implemented multiple energy conservation measures. In 2007, the United Nations recognized Grand Rapids as a “Regional Center of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development.”

Grand Rapids is widely recognized as one of the most sustainable cities in America. In 2010, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce gave Grand Rapids the “Nation’s Most Sustainable City” award, and in 2012, Mayor Heartwell was given the first place Climate Protection Award by the U.S. Conference of Mayors. With 22 colleges or universities in the metropolitan area, Grand Rapids is known as a knowledge center. Human medicine, medical education, and health research is the most rapidly growing economic cluster. Even during times of severe economic downturn, Grand Rapids has shown remarkable economic resiliency.

Keynote Speaker: John Kosco, P.E., CPESC, Tetra Tech - John is a Principal Engineer with Tetra Tech in Fairfax, Virginia, where he manages their support to the U.S. EPA’s stormwater and green infrastructure (GI) programs. This includes assisting the U.S. EPA in reissuing construction and industrial stormwater general permits, providing technical assistance to cities to promote GI topics, and supporting the U.S. EPA on stormwater rulemaking efforts. John formerly worked for the U.S. EPA for nine years and was a co-author on the stormwater Phase II regulations.

Abstract: Mr. Kosco will discuss the creation and evolution of the U.S. EPA’s GI Program, including the key policy and regulatory programs pushing GI today. Building on the concepts of low impact development that began in Maryland in the 1990’s, the U.S. EPA and NRDC introduced the term “green infrastructure” in 2006. Since that time, GI concepts, including the requirement to retain a certain volume of stormwater on-site, have been incorporated into CSO consent decrees, MS4 permits and requirements for new federal facilities. Mr. Kosco will also discuss upcoming trends in GI including climate resiliency and public private partnerships.

10:00 – 11:00 BREAKOUT SESSION | FINANCE & POLICY

PANEL DISCUSSION - Municipal Stormwater Policy and Financing

Panelists: *Brenda Moore, Ryan Cotton, Chuck Hersey*

Michigan is at a crossroads in its decades-long efforts to improve water quality. In most cases, elimination of water quality impairments will require a significant degree of stormwater management. Yet progress in stormwater management is, and will remain, very limited if institutional changes are not made within Michigan cities and at a statewide level. A Michigan city and a drain commissioner join our panel to describe institutional changes that have been beneficial for them in the absence of a state or federal funding mechanism specific for stormwater control or green infrastructure. The Panel will take a look at institutional changes that are needed at the statewide level to assist other cities in funding their stormwater infrastructure needs, and the emerging strategies to put these changes in place.

Speaker Bios and Abstracts

Brenda Moore, Muskegon County Drain Commissioner - Brenda Moore has worked in the land use and community development field since 1984, and has been the Muskegon County Drain Commissioner since November, 2013. She has a B.S. in Natural Resource Management from GVSU, and a M.S. in Community Development from MSU. She has professional experience in regional planning, private consulting (in Lansing and Grand Rapids), and as a staff member in county, township, and city governments. She recently also served as director of the Mona Lake Watershed Council. She is a published writer and a trainer, and has been certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners, and in Michigan as a Professional Community Planner (PCP).

Ryan Cotton, City Manager, Holland - Ryan has been a professional City Manager since 1986 in several cities in Vermont and Michigan. Ryan was appointed City Manager of the City of Holland in 2012. He holds several degrees: a Masters of Public Administration, University of Kansas, 1982; a Masters of Arts in Political Science, Western Michigan University, 2010; and a Bachelors of Arts in Public Administration, Miami University, Ohio, 1978.

He also held many other leadership positions such as on the Board of Directors for the West Michigan Strategic Alliance, and Chair of the Grand Haven/Spring Lake Sewer Authority. He has won numerous awards for outstanding municipal management, economic development, and collaboration.

Chuck Hersey, Senior Policy Fellow, Public Sector Consultants - Chuck has been the Senior Policy Fellow at Public Sector Consultants since July 2013. Prior to that, he was the Manager for Environmental Programs at the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) since 1978. He holds a BA in Environmental Studies, University of Michigan - Dearborn – 1978 and a Masters of Public Administration, University of Michigan – 1982.

Chuck is well-known for his service to improve air and water quality in Southeast Michigan, resulting in many notable achievements and advancements in control strategies both locally and even statewide. His achievements include the following:

- Honored in the Congressional Record, June 12, 2013
- Recipient of Special Achievement Award from U.S. EPA Region V
- Analyzed, testified, and commented on various environmental legislative initiatives at Federal and State level
- One of a select few non-state employees with his own ID badge to enter DEQ's home office at Constitution Hall in Lansing

10:00 – 11:00 BREAKOUT SESSION | STORMWATER AND FLOOD MANAGEMENT

Low Impact Development (LID) Design for Stormwater Management

Hydrologic-based Green Infrastructure Design

Dr. Don Carpenter, PE, Professor, Lawrence Tech University (LTU) - Dr. Carpenter is a Professor of Civil Engineering and Director of the Great Lakes Stormwater Management Institute at LTU in Southfield, Michigan. He is an accredited green design professional (LEED AP) and practicing professional engineer (PE) whose expertise includes low impact development (LID), GI, innovative stormwater best management practices (BMPs), hydrologic modeling, and field performance monitoring. Dr. Carpenter routinely provides professional lectures and short courses on LID implementation. Recent venues for his presentations include the Michigan Green Infrastructure Conference, Pure Oakland Water Summit, National LID Conference, the World Water and Environmental Resources Congress, Florida Stormwater Association, Michigan Water Environment Association, Michigan Green Industry Association, and the American Nursery and Landscape Association.

Abstract: Dr. Carpenter will be discussing the use of LID for stormwater management with a specific focus on the hydrologic design of GI practices such as rain gardens, bioswales, green roofs, and porous pavement. Participants will see specific examples of design strategies and equations used for volumetric sizing and hydrologic response.

Speaker Bios and Abstracts

Green Infrastructure Designs for Grand Rapids Sewer Separation Projects

Mike Lunn, Manager, Environmental Services, City of Grand Rapids - Mike's role is to provide leadership for the City of Grand Rapids in the areas of Climate Resiliency, Low Impact Development, Wastewater, Stormwater, Collections System, Water Distribution Facilities Maintenance and Innovation Facilitator. He has 38 years of experience in the field.

Abstract: Grand Rapids completed construction on the required portions of the Combined Sewer Separation Project last month. The project completed in the last 5 years incorporated GI into the design.

10:00 – 11:00 BREAKOUT SESSION | GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE REGIONAL SCALE

Preserving Critical, Functional Green Infrastructure

Green Infrastructure Principles Guiding Ottawa County Park Development

John Scholtz, Director, Ottawa County Parks - John has a M.S. degree in Parks and Recreation Resources from Michigan State University. He was Director of Saginaw County Parks and Recreation for 7 years before becoming the Director of the Ottawa County Parks in 1987. He has overseen the growth of the park system from 400 acres to over 6,400 acres with a focus on establishing greenways along the county's major water features.

Abstract: Ottawa County Parks has had a unique opportunity to triple the size of its park system in the past 20 year using funds from a dedicated parks millage plus grants and donations. The presentation will explain how GI principles were used to guide the growth of the park system. Details of several projects will be provided to illustrate how multiple goals have been achieved through growth of the park system including protection of high quality natural features, enhancing water quality, and provision of outdoor recreation opportunities.

Land Conservancy Partnerships for Green Infrastructure

April Scholtz, Land Protection Director, Land Conservancy of West Michigan

April has been working for the Land Conservancy since 1993 – back when it was known as “NACOWMI” (Natural Areas Conservancy of West Michigan). Before that, she worked with the State of Michigan's Wilderness and Natural Areas Program for the Michigan Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. One of her first projects was to coordinate the natural areas designation of the Saugatuck Dunes Natural Area. She has experience in private land protection throughout Michigan. April earned her M.S. from the University of Michigan, with graduate studies in both biology and natural resource management and policy.

Abstract: The Land Conservancy of West Michigan conserves land by creating public nature preserves, providing support to governments creating natural areas, and helping private landowners protect their own land. They also institute stewardship initiatives to care for the land and provide educational opportunities through workshops and field trips.

Ecosystem Services and Valuing Green Infrastructure

Dr. Paul Isely, Associate Dean and Professor, Economics, Seidman College of Business, Grand Valley State University - Dr. Isely joined the GVSU faculty in 1995 with a Ph.D. in Economics from Purdue University, an M.S. in Economics from Purdue, and a dual B.S. in Physics and Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Isely has provided research and been interviewed extensively by TV, radio, and newspapers on the West Michigan economy and its relationship to the national and state economies. Interviews over the past few years have included local media, *NPR*, *USA Today*, and the *AP Wire*.

Abstract: An exploration of how the value of ecosystem services has been estimated in West Michigan. These values can and have provided policy makers with guidance on how best to preserve GI. They are also used in educating people on why the GI might have a higher value than they first thought. This exploration will be accomplished by looking at several cases in West Michigan where ecosystem service values were used over the last 10 years.

Speaker Bios and Abstracts

11:10 – 12:10 BREAKOUT SESSIONS | FINANCE & POLICY

Creative Stormwater Financing – A Community Case Study

PACE Financing

J. Cory Connolly, Clean Energy Project Manager and Adams Entrepreneurial Fellow, Levin Energy Partners - Cory helps develop and deploy Levin Energy Partners' energy finance marketplace, called Lean & Green Michigan, and also develops PACE projects across Michigan. He has extensive experience in energy and environmental policy as a former Senior Research Associate at the Environmental Law Institute in Washington, DC. His work on energy and carbon markets has taken him to Argentina, Japan, and Mexico. He is a graduate of James Madison College at Michigan State University where he majored in International Relations and specialized in Environmental Economics and Policy.

Abstract: Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Financing: rising costs of water and water-associated fees provide serious challenges for businesses across Michigan, costing them significant money that could be used for other activities. But few do anything about it. The investments to fix the problem take too long to pay back, and most businesses and non-profits need the cash for their core operations. So they go on wasting money. Fortunately, PACE transforms “Would be nice” projects into “No brainer” projects — as in 100% financing and positive cash flow from day one for 20 years. Cory will explain how PACE financing works and how businesses can take advantage of it to undertake GI and water-oriented projects. The session will also provide case studies of real projects saving money by deploying energy efficiency, water efficiency, and renewable energy technologies. Participants will leave with an understanding of how to identify and start moving forward with a PACE-financed project.

Community Partnership Projects: Planning and Implementing Green Infrastructure for Clean Water and Healthy Aquatic Habitats

Kathy Evans, West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC) - Kathy Evans is the Environmental Program Manager for the WMSRDC, where she works closely with West Michigan watershed groups and local governments. From 1995 through 2006, Kathy served as Water Quality Program Manager for the Muskegon Conservation District and as Executive Director for Timberland RC&D. Since 1992, Kathy has worked with the Muskegon Lake Watershed Partnership to implement the Muskegon Lake Remedial Action Plan. She is also a founding board member of the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly. Kathy received the Great Lakes Commission Outstanding Service Award in 2005, and chaired the Statewide Public Advisory Council for Michigan Areas of Concern (AOC) from 1999-2005, and from 2007-2009. She is a member of the U.S. EPA's Lake Michigan LaMP Forum and the Lake Michigan Watershed Academy. For her efforts to restore fish and wildlife habitat in the Muskegon Lake AOC, Kathy received the NOAA Restoration Center's “Excellence in Restoration” Award in 2010.

Abstract: This presentation will present case studies of two Muskegon Lake GI projects, both with multiple funding partners, leveraged resources and win/win community benefits. A stormwater management project and a habitat restoration project will be featured.

11:10 – 12:10 BREAKOUT SESSIONS | STORMWATER AND FLOOD MANAGEMENT

LID for Flood Control and Wetland Habitat Restoration

Projects to Improve Lake Macatawa Water Quality

Dan Callam, Macatawa Greenway Manager, Outdoor Discovery Center, Holland, MI - In addition to working on Project Clarity to help restore the Macatawa Watershed, Dan helps manage the Macatawa River Greenway project and other conservation efforts in the greater Holland area. A Hope College graduate, he has previously worked for Hope College and the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council (MACC) on water quality in the Macatawa Watershed.

Speaker Bios and Abstracts

Abstract: Project Clarity is an effort to significantly reduce the amount of sediment and phosphorus entering Lake Macatawa, a drowned river mouth connected to Lake Michigan near Holland. This effort has garnered broad community support, and has resulted in a number of projects being put forth to address the state of this hypereutrophic lake. This presentation will focus on efforts in the basin of the North Branch of the Macatawa River, including agricultural BMPs, two-stage ditching, floodwater detention, and wetland restoration. The broad variety of partnerships and their benefits will also be discussed, including those with farmers, businesses, local and state government agencies, schools, and research institutions.

Wetland Reserve Easements Program Successes

Erin Segar, Resource Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - Erin works with Farm Bill Programs, providing support to NRCS staff as well as serving as the Point of Contact for the Urban Waters Federal Partnership.

Abstract: This presentation will highlight past successes with the Wetland Reserve Easements Program (WRE), which was formally known as the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). The goal of this presentation is to demonstrate how WRE can be utilized for technical assistance and as a funding mechanism to enhance, restore or protect wetlands for flood prevention and water quality through easements.

Natural Connections Mapping for Habitat and Water Resource Protection

Wendy Ogilvie, Director, Environmental Programs, Grand Valley Metro Council - Ms. Ogilvie joined GVMC in 2013 as the Director of Environmental Programs. She was previously with Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc., for 13 years, focusing on water resource management projects. She has 20 years of experience in watershed and stormwater management, including the administration of over 40 community NPDES Municipal Stormwater Permits throughout Michigan. She is currently facilitating the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (LGROW) strategic plan, which outlines steps to implement the regional GI plan as illustrated in the “Natural Connection” map, previously created by the many LGROW partners.

Abstract: Partners within the Lower Grand River Watershed created a “Natural Connections Map” that illustrates the regional GI framework in the Watershed. This area of over 3,000 acres consists primarily of upland forests, typically associated with larger hub areas; and lowland forests and wetlands, typically associated with the riparian lands along rivers, creeks, lakes, and ponds. The hubs and corridors identified on the map have the greatest potential to provide an interconnected network of land and water that supports native plant and animal species, maintain ecological processes and services, sustain air and water resources, and contribute to the health, well-being and quality of life of people and communities throughout the region. LGROW and its partners are currently using this framework to engage local governments in advancing the critical policy issue of GI and low impact development. Involving partners who are responsible and able to acquire and manage land for habitat and water resource protection is vital for the future health of a watershed.

11:10 – 12:10 BREAKOUT SESSIONS | GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE REGIONAL SCALE

PANEL DISCUSSION - How to Incorporate Greenways into Land Use Plans and Placemaking

Panelists: Jason Latham, Annamarie Bauer, Brian Zuber

Progress in stormwater management is necessary not only in our own state, but also across the region. This panel will include discussion on incorporating greenways into land use plans and placemaking. In particular, panelists will focus on the importance of early resource agency involvement, the role of state trails in regional greenways planning, and the geospatial prioritization of GI.

Speaker Bios and Abstracts

MDOT as a Local Partner for Green Projects and Placemaking

Jason Latham, Planning Manager, Michigan Department of Transportation - Jason has been with MDOT for 16 years, including the last 11 as the planning manager in the Southwest Region. During that time, he has implemented a number of mitigation and preservation projects on behalf of the department. His major accomplishments include the environmental impact statements for the relocation of US-31 in Berrien County and the US-131 Constantine bypass. Prior to his work in Southwest Region, Jason ran MDOT's Wetlands Mitigation Program, overseeing the design and construction of over 200 acres of wetland. Jason has a B.S. in Biology from Frostburg State University. He has been honored by MDOT with its Director's Award, the highest honor MDOT bestows on its employees. In addition to working at MDOT, Jason also tends an orchard in Berrien County.

Abstract: Jason will emphasize how early involvement with MDOT, combined with land-use and transportation planning at the local level, enhances MDOT's ability to partner with communities to help deliver projects that help create place, including greenspace, in communities. Jason will also discuss the importance of early involvement with resource agencies too, ensuring quality projects done in compliance with state and federal environmental regulations.

The Role of State Trails in Regional Greenways Planning

Annamarie Bauer, Northwest Regional Planner, Parks and Recreation Division, Michigan DNR - Annamarie holds a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture from MSU. Annamarie is a Registered Landscape Architect and served on Michigan Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects as Treasurer for six years. She served on the Cannon Township Planning Commission for 21 years and has practiced landscape architecture for over 20 years in both the private and public sector including city and state government. Annamarie served as a Trail Planning Specialist for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Recreation and Trails Section for ten years prior to becoming a development planner for the Parks Division. During her service in the State Trails Section with the DNR, her area of focus included acquisitions, planning, design, management and maintenance for non-motorized, multi-purpose recreation rail-trails.

Geospatial Prioritization of Green Infrastructure: A Multi-model Watershed Scale Approach in the Lower Grand River Watershed

Brian Zuber, Grand Valley Metro Council - Brian Zuber is just completing his degree as a biology graduate student at GVSU's Annis Water Resources Institute. He has an assistantship at the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council where he works on many projects for their environmental programs including the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds.

Abstract: Methods and results of a flexible geospatial model for the prioritization of wetland restoration in the Lower Grand River Watershed using SWAT model results and LLWFA (Landscape Level Wetland Functional Assessment) analysis. The modeling approach can be used by other watersheds that have performed LLWFAs.

12:15 – 1:45 LUNCH AND SPEAKER (1:15-1:45 DAVID MACKENZIE)

Green Roofs and Walls – Everyday, Everywhere

David MacKenzie, Owner/President, Hortech, Inc. - Throughout Dave's career he has been an author, speaker, plant-breeder, and product developer. His LiveRoof green roof system has now greened more than five million square feet of rooftops and is used locally and globally to mitigate storm water, and provide many other benefits. More recently, Dave has developed the LiveWall vertical greening system which has been featured during ArtPrize, and is now used to "green" vertical surfaces, both locally and abroad. His company, Hortech, is a West Michigan nursery business specializing in problem solving perennial plants—including ground covers, vines, ferns and grasses.

Speaker Bios and Abstracts

Abstract: While green roofs and planted walls are increasingly common, their use in the United States is in its infancy—at least when compared to many European countries. Particularly in England, Germany, France and Switzerland, green roofs and walls are seen everywhere, not just on LEED buildings. Germany adds over 145 million square feet of green roof per year, France just passed a law requiring green roofs on commercial buildings, and both England and France are seeing vegetated walls popping up in abundance. In this presentation, Dave will talk about the value of planting roofs and walls, and how green roofs and planted walls differ in costs and benefits related to storm water management, habitat restoration, public health and social wellness.

2:00 – 3:00 BREAKOUT SESSION | FINANCE & POLICY

Costs and Benefits of GI and Stormwater Management Retrofits; Implementing GI to Build More Resilient Communities

Costs for Stormwater BMPs and Green Infrastructure

Bob Newport, Stormwater Specialist, U.S. EPA, Region 5 – Chicago - Bob helps states, local units of government, planning agencies, and NGOs with issues related to urban and suburban runoff and stormwater management. Bob leads and participates in activities in the Region related to GI and low impact development. He works with states on NPDES permits for stormwater discharges, and is also engaged in Combined Sewer Overflow control planning.

Abstract: Bob Newport will present on an analysis conducted by the U.S. EPA on the costs for implementing GI and other BMPs for controlling stormwater discharges from new development sites and redevelopment sites.

Implementing Green Infrastructure to Build More Resilient Communities

Dr. Haris Alibašić, Director, Office of Energy and Sustainability, City of Grand Rapids - Dr Alibašić manages the state and federal legislative affairs for the city. Dr. Alibašić teaches Metropolitan Administration and Politics, Policy Analysis, and courses and workshops in the Graduate Certificate in Sustainability program at Grand Valley State University. He has also taught International Business and Management, and Public Management courses at Davenport University. Dr. Alibašić holds a BBA in International Business and Marketing and MPA from Grand Valley State University and a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration from Walden University and is a recipient of the Doctoral Scholarship, Commitment to Social Change.

Dr. Alibašić has also written and published extensively on the topics of sustainability, climate resilience, economic development, climate change, and sustainable energy. He received the 2012 West Michigan Environmental Action Council (WMEAC) – The C.R. Evenson Award and the 2011 Grand Valley State University's Sustainability Champion Award.

Abstract: The presentation is a review of sustainability and resiliency efforts in Grand Rapids, with an emphasis on GI.

2:00 – 3:00 BREAKOUT SESSION | STORMWATER AND FLOOD MANAGEMENT

PANEL DISCUSSION - Hazard Mitigation Plans and Green Infrastructure Implementation Opportunities

Panelists: *Stephen Carlson, Carrie Rivette, Jennifer Lawson*

Hazard Mitigation Planning at WMSRDC

Stephen Carlson, West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC) - WMSRDC's involvement in hazard mitigation planning began in the early 2000's with the initial creation of the initial Hazard Mitigation Plans for the counties of Lake, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, and Oceana. The current hazard mitigation project began in 2010 when WMSRDC teamed up with Oceana County to apply for a Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant to perform the required update of each county plan. The grant was awarded in 2011. As of this printing, three of the five plans (Lake, Newaygo, and Oceana)

Speaker Bios and Abstracts

have been completed and locally adopted. Two other draft plans are undergoing rigorous review. The project is scheduled to end on July 31. Each Hazard Mitigation Plan contains a wealth of information, including: community profiles, hazard profiles, hazard assessments, maps, hazard mitigation alternatives, and an action agenda.

Municipal GI Opportunity Analysis

Carrie Rivette, Stormwater Coordinator, City of Grand Rapids - Carrie is a Professional Engineer with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering from Michigan Technological University. She has 20 years of experience in the environmental and water resources field. As Stormwater Manager for the City, she regulates private facilities, as well as tracks the City's compliance with their Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit with the State of Michigan. In addition, she is a member of the City's Design team and reviews both public and private projects for stormwater compliance and GI.

Abstract: Given the historical lack of funding for stormwater, when grants come out, we tend to find ourselves scrambling to find projects that meet the grant criteria. The city of Grand Rapids has recently taken a proactive approach and hired Tetra Tech to perform a city-wide GI opportunity analysis. This allows us to have all of the basic information needed in grants at our fingertips when the grants come out. We can then match the sites to the grants and not miss out on opportunities.

Hazard Mitigation as part of Ann Arbor's Holistic Planning and Asset Management

Jennifer Lawson, Water Quality Manager, City of Ann Arbor - Jennifer Lawson started her career as a Civil Engineer's daughter and at the age of 7, started working at her Dad's office, running bluelines, holding a survey rod and coloring mylars. Jen is currently the Water Quality Manager for the City of Ann Arbor. She has a Bachelor of Science in Resource Development from MSU and a Master's degree in Landscape Architecture from U of M focusing on Landscape as Infrastructure (How the ecology of the landscape can provide a service). With 18 years of experience in both private consulting and municipal engineering, she has a unique balance and understanding of water infrastructure regulations and management needs.

Abstract: Ann Arbor's focus is holistic, encompassing capital planning and asset management for infrastructure and utility systems, with the ultimate goal of protecting our Great Lakes through Regulatory Compliance, Innovative Design and Public Engagement.

2:00 – 3:00 BREAKOUT SESSION | GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE REGIONAL SCALE

Farm Land Open Space Preservation (Healthy Waters, Working Farms: For Future Generations)

Farmland Preservation in Ottawa County

Luke Meerman, Board Member, Ottawa County Farmland Preservation Board - Luke was born and raised on a farm that his family has been working since 1882. He and his wife, Vicky, are the owners of Grassfields Cheese, an Organic Cheese Company producing cheese marketed around the Midwest and on both coasts. The cheese is Raw Milk, Organic, Animal Welfare Approved, and Farmstead. Luke was voted Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer of the Year in 2010. Luke has been part of the Ottawa County Farmland Preservation Board since it was formed.

Abstract: Luke will talk about the successes with Farmland Preservation in Ottawa County. From his perspective, you will hear how local farms are being supported and encouraged through the Farmland Preservation Program. Additionally, you will learn what it takes to connect the farm community to local water quality stewardship and finally, how Healthy Waters Working Farms is a piece of this puzzle.

Speaker Bios and Abstracts

Farmland Preservation in Kent County

Denny Heffron, Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board - Denny Heffron has a farming operation in Northeast Kent County where they grow grains and raise livestock. The farm was originally settled and farmed with horses. Today the farm uses computerized planters, GPS-driven equipment and site specific nutrient applications. Denny also owns and operates Heffron Farms Markets, four retail meat stores in the greater Grand Rapids. Denny was appointed to the Kent County Preservation Board in 2002 and currently serves as Chairman.

Denny's family was the first in Kent County to donate the development rights on a parcel of their land. Preservation of the land on Heffron farms is important to Denny. He farms with his two sons, and the farm is in its fourth generation. With four young grandsons, the possibly of the fifth generation is right around the corner.

Abstract: Denny will talk about successful farmland preservation in Kent County and how the program leads to more commitment to stewardship of the land. The talk will include a brief history of the program, how it came about, the nuts and bolts of how the program works, and how the program is functioning today.

Healthy Waters - Working Farms Initiative

Brian Huggett, Director, Potawatomi Resource Conservation & Development Council, Marshall, Michigan - Originally from Michigan, Brian spent the last 20 years working for the National Park Service and California State Park systems. He is a hydrologist by passion and training and is working hard to translate that into farmland preservation, invasive species management and black walnut production.

Abstract: Brian will talk about the 'Healthy Waters Working Farms' initiative that combines water quality practices with farmland preservation. He will discuss how the Governor's Water Strategy and this initiative work together to promote agricultural economic security and provide clean water for fish, wildlife and future generations.

3:15 – 3:45 PLENARY SESSION

Water-Focused Green Infrastructure for Multiple Benefits

David Yocca, Conservation Design Forum - David actively guides CDF's design disciplines with an innovative approach to performance-based green solutions that amplify the health, beauty, economy, and livability of places. Since joining the firm in 1997, David has been able to follow his passion for restoring environmental health, authentic beauty, and economic prosperity to all places. He helps combine leading-edge strategies with a deep understanding of local natural and cultural systems. He believes the measurement of high-performance sites and communication of the multiple benefits they provide is key to widespread application of enlightened land use, building, and development practices. David resides in Grand Rapids, MI and contributes his time to agencies and institutions through lectures, publications, and committee/workshop participation, including ASLA, SITES, and Green Roofs for Healthy Cities.

Abstract: David will present an approach to sustainable, water-focused planning, design and engineering practices. He will share examples of GI applications integrated into the design and function of building sites, parks, and streets that provide improved water quality as well as other multiple benefits, including flood mitigation, reduced maintenance costs, enhanced ecology, and beauty. David will highlight opportunities to apply experience from projects throughout the Midwest towards the improvement and enhancement of Western Michigan landscapes as a key to long-term community prosperity and quality of life.