



A Coalition of Organizations Protecting Michigan's People and the Environment

On track

Summit showcases growing consensus that rail resurgence is critical to Michigan's future

Improved railroad transportation is a critical catalyst for Michigan's economy and quality of life, dozens of policy experts and political leaders agreed at a groundbreaking gathering organized by the Michigan Environmental Council this fall.

Gov. Rick Snyder delivered the keynote address at the Oct. 31 Michigan Rail Summit 2011 in Lansing, where he called for advocates to spread the word about the social and economic benefits of passenger and freight rail.

Snyder called for continued progress on rail to help make Michigan "...the centerpiece of a broader logistical connection that goes all the way from St. Louis to Chicago to Detroit and ... continues on to Toronto and Montreal with Detroit right in the heart of it.

"Rail can solve some real problems," said Snyder. "It can be economically efficient" and contribute to "sustainability and also an urban lifestyle—something our young people are looking for."



Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder was keynote speaker at Michigan Rail Summit 2011. In the background is Chris Kolb, president of the Michigan Environmental Council. MEC organized the summit.

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State Sen. Minority Leader Gretchen Whitmer, D-East Lansing



From left, James Bruckbauer of the Michigan Land Use Institute, Suzann Flowers of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission and Steve Stepek of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study



Michael Ford, CEO of the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority



Mohammed Alghurabi of the Michigan Department of Transportation

See **Who's Who**, page 4



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PURPOSE

Founded in 1980, MEC is a coalition of over 60 environmental and public health organizations with more than 200,000 individual members. For 31 years, MEC has provided a voice for the environment at the State Capital. In addition to serving as a clearinghouse of environmental information, MEC develops public policy, educates elected officials and the public, and provides training and support to member organizations.

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QUOTABLE

“So what are we gonna need for moving ahead?Big ideas, big agendas and a lot of kick-butt attitude and willingness to take some chances.”

—Rick Chapla of *The Right Place*, a nonprofit economic development agency in West Michigan, at Michigan Rail Summit 2011

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MEC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

MEC: Bringing vital discussions to member groups and policy leaders statewide

The schedule just keeps getting packed with more good stuff here at the Michigan Environmental Council. Following our successful annual awards celebration in June, MEC hit the road for its five regional meetings. Each year, we meet with our member groups to let them know what we're doing and hear what they are working on. Each meeting has a program designed to address the interests of member groups and allies.

■ At our Southeast Michigan regional meeting, Dan Wyant, director of the Department of Environmental Quality, gave the keynote address. He focused on why environmentalists should care about the federal farm bill. U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow provided a video greeting. A panel discussion regarding ways to enhance Detroiters' access to fresh food involved our regional partners and allies. An optional garden tour of the SEED Wayne project took place after the program.

■ Our Mid-Michigan regional meeting focused on local food. Keith Creagh, director of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, gave the keynote address. A panel discussion followed on fresh food and the importance of connecting communities to local farm goods.

■ The Northern Michigan regional meeting was centered on collaboration and building partnerships. The

keynoter was Rodney Stokes, director of the Department of Natural Resources. Panel discussions on opportunities for collaboration and building partnerships for conservation followed Stokes' address. The panelists included local, state and tribal elected officials, along with leaders from environmental and conservation organizations.



Chris Kolb

■ Water was the topic at our West Michigan regional meeting in Kalamazoo. Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette talked about his efforts to protect the Great Lakes from invasive species. He was followed by a great panel discussion by our member groups on efforts to protect the quality of our water resources.

■ The Upper Peninsula meeting focused on efforts by our member groups to build a more sustainable economy and community. Squared in the middle of our conversation was the whole mining issue and the potential for seven to nine (or more) new mines. This presented a framework for the discussion on moving economic development away from natural resource extraction to a more sustainable, place-based, economic gardening model built to retain and attract young, talented workers to the Upper Peninsula.

See **Vital discussions**, page 7



Bell ringers! Environmental successes won in recent weeks

In each issue of the *Michigan Environmental Report*, we celebrate accomplishments by MEC and member groups.

No coal

Consumers Energy announced in early December it was dropping plans for a massive new coal plant in Bay City. The company also plans to close some of its oldest and most polluting coal power units during the coming years. The news was music to the ears of clean energy advocates, who have argued for years that the power plant was unnecessary and that cleaner and more affordable options are available.

Fast trains

The Michigan Legislature in late September approved matching money, leveraging \$161 million in federal funds to enhance passenger train service between Chicago and Detroit. The grant provides money to upgrade rail stations, purchase track, and rework congestion points to separate passenger and freight trains. The result will be a Detroit-Chicago trip in about four hours—shaving up to 90 minutes off the existing travel time.

Veto this!

Gov. Rick Snyder vetoed legislation that would have ceded some of Michigan's control over Great Lakes protection to Washington, DC, bureaucrats. HB 4326 would have prohibited Michigan's governor and state agencies from imposing any rule that exceeds federal standards unless approved by the State Legislature. That would have effectively stripped the state governor—and future governors—from acting decisively and quickly to protect our Great Lakes and other Pure Michigan assets.

Together we can

Bridging partisan divides in today's polarized politics isn't easy. But the Michigan Environmental Council pulled it off with Michigan Rail Summit 2011—an event amply covered in this issue. The audience and panels included folks not used to uniting in a common cause—think environmental advocates sharing the stage with the state Chamber of Commerce. Prominent leaders from both political parties also rallied behind the same goal—better rail transportation as a cornerstone of Michigan's future.

Who's Who, Michigan Rail Summit 2011

Event Sponsors:

- Michigan Environmental Council
- Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers
- Michigan Chamber of Commerce
- Michigan Municipal League
- Michigan Railroads Association
- The Right Place, Inc.

Event Presenters (in order of appearance):

- Rick Snyder: Governor of Michigan*
John Porcari: Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
Joseph Szabo: Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration
Gretchen Whitmer: Michigan State Senate Minority Leader
Kirk Steudle: Director, Michigan Department of Transportation
Bob Chaprnka: President, Michigan Railroads Association
John Proos: Michigan State Senator
Wayne Schmidt: Michigan State Representative
John O'Reilly, Jr.: Mayor, City of Dearborn
Dr. Joe Schwarz: Former U.S. Congressman
Rick Chapla: Vice President for Development, The Right Place, Inc.
Keith Hartwell: Washington, DC Representative, American Short Line & Regional Railroad Association
Rich Studley: CEO, Michigan Chamber of Commerce
John Robert Smith: CEO, Reconnecting America and former Chair of Amtrak Board of Directors
Dan Gilmartin: CEO, Michigan Municipal League
John Hieftje: Mayor of Ann Arbor

On track

— continued from page 1



Connie Zheng from Michigan State University



Rich Studley, CEO of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, said rail must link to ports, bus stations and airports.

More than 200 people from across the state attended the summit, which came on the heels of good news for passenger rail: roughly \$500 million in federal and state funds have been secured over the past two years to improve speeds, rebuild train stations, purchase train sets and make critical track improvements on Amtrak's Detroit-to-Chicago line. The latest round of financing was announced by the U.S. Department of Transportation just days prior to the summit.

"We're hiring workers, laying track and building stations," John Porcari, deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation told summit participants.

The work will allow speeds of up to 110 miles per hour on sections of the Chicago-Detroit trip and eliminate delays caused when passenger trains must slow or stop for freight trains. It will cut up to 90 minutes off the real-time train trip between the two cities.

Porcari told the gathering that he expects 80 percent of the U.S. population can be connected to enhanced-speed passenger rail systems in the next 25 years, bringing economic growth and opportunity to regions and markets. He said rail must work with roads, airports and bus systems to connect people to places and Michigan-made goods like cherries, lumber and automobile components to markets.

"Transportation is a system, and it only works as well as the weakest link in that system," Porcari said. "So when people ask if roads, bridges, rail, or aviation is the most important link in the system, our answer is, 'Yes, all of the above.'"

The summit was organized by the Michigan Environmental Council, which brought together policy leaders and advocates from across the state and Washington, DC, to explore the future of passenger and freight rail in Michigan.

The gathering was unique in that it nurtured agreement on rail's importance from those often on opposing sides: Democratic and Republican opinion leaders echoed each other's thoughts; the state Chamber of Commerce and environmental groups were on the same stage; and grassroots advocates nodded in agreement with the sentiments of policy wonks and academics.

"With an additional 100 million Americans expected to share the roadways by the year 2050, there is widespread recognition that we need to expand options for connecting people to places and goods to markets," said Chris Kolb, president



Wayne Schmidt, Michigan State Representative



Rick Pluta of Michigan Public Radio

of the Michigan Environmental Council. “We’re pleased that the summit was able to bring together so many diverse interests to explore that future.”

Kirk Steudle, director of the Michigan Department of Transportation, told Summit-goers that Michigan needs to plan for the future: “When you get your head around the idea of 100 million more people...we’ve got to move them and feed them and do all of the other things that we need in life. And there’s no way we can do that with one single mode of transportation.”

The Summit was the latest and highest profile of the Council’s continuing efforts to improve public transportation options throughout Michigan. Last year, MEC coordinated 16 public listening sessions where more than 1,000 residents provided input into what they’d like to see in a passenger rail system. Comments and summaries were forwarded to state and federal agencies.

MEC also has been in the vanguard of the Complete Streets movement. A statewide Complete Streets policy—and dozens of similar measures adopted by local governments—requires that the needs of nonmotorized transportation be considered in designing roadways.

Porcari, of the federal Department of Transportation, noted that Michigan is the state that put the nation on wheels and led to the creation of “the best highway system in the world.” Now, he said, “What America needs is a similar commitment to high speed rail.”

He asked participants to think of their own communities and the tremendous road infrastructure that was created and paid for by their parents’ and grandparents’ generations. “How are we going to pay it forward?” he asked. ■

What they said!

Notable quotes from speakers at Michigan Rail Summit 2011

“You draw a circle from Chicago through Montreal with Detroit right in the heart of it, that’s about a third of the North American economy. So there’s a big opportunity (for passenger and freight rail) using this as the centerpiece.”

—Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder

“We in Michigan have the opportunity to attract tourists from all over the world more and more. We see that now in Dearborn with the Henry Ford ... but we have to offer them alternatives that make sense to them. They don’t all want to rent a car and drive around.”

—Dearborn Mayor John O’Reilly, Jr.

“If you look at southwest Michigan and how close we are to that loop of Chicago—really the 6 to 10 million people in the Chicagoland region—it is a significant opportunity for all of us on rail.”

—State Senator John Proos of St. Joseph

“It has taken me time to understand the interlaced and interwoven requirements of this intermodal transportation discussion. I can promise you that most of my colleagues, many of my colleagues, don’t see it this way.”

—Sen. Proos, again

“I would encourage you to reach out and look beyond the rail to how it links to our airports and our ports and our bus systems...”

—Michigan Chamber of Commerce CEO Rich Studley



John Porcari

“When (U.S. Transportation Department) Secretary (Ray) LaHood comes, he usually brings money. How much have you brought?”

—MEC President Chris Kolb, introducing Transportation Dept. Deputy Secretary John Porcari

“I think you just found the difference between the secretary and the deputy secretary.”

—Porcari, to Kolb

“We need to market this...we need to share it and don’t be quiet.... Humble Midwesterners is really nice but it doesn’t work well when you really want to change how we operate.”

—Gov. Snyder, urging rail advocates to advocate

“So what are we gonna need for moving ahead? ...Big ideas, big agendas and a lot of kick-butt attitude and willingness to take some chances.”

—Rick Chapla of The Right Place, a nonprofit economic development agency in West Michigan

National group: Michigan has the best state parks system in U.S.

But funding woes, political attacks threaten to erode Pure Michigan asset

If you've wandered a Waterloo trail or hung your snowshoes in the cozy warmth of a Porcupine Mountains cabin, you've probably suspected what a national recreation group has confirmed: Michigan has the best state parks system in the country.

The National Recreation and Park Association awarded the Great Lake State its Gold Medal in November. The prize recognizes five communities and one state that meet the evolving needs of the people they serve through outstanding management and long-term planning.

"This is the result of teamwork, talent and vision that is aimed at protecting our special places, and also making

sure that visitors have an enjoyable, high quality experience," said Rodney Stokes, director of the Department of Natural Resources.

One reason for Michigan's victory was the innovative Recreation Passport model for parks funding, which replaced the old state park stickers. It provides unlimited access to state parks for just \$10 paid through an optional fee on annual vehicle registrations. The program exceeded the DNR's fundraising goals in its first year, netting the state \$18.8 million for the upkeep, maintenance and operations of the parks. Nearly 25 percent of Michiganders opted in.

The award and the passport's success are great news for Michigan, but they're no guarantee that our parks and natural treasures are secure.

"Parks, recreation and resource staff at the state have done a great job with limited resources," said Brad Garmon, director of conservation and emerging issues for the Michigan Environmental Council. "But our State Parks have been consistently underfunded for years. We face a multimillion-dollar backlog of deferred maintenance issues, meaning that we have buildings with leaking roofs, crumbling water lines, and outdated facilities."

Garmon recently was appointed by the governor to serve on a blue-ribbon panel to guide the state parks system in meeting changing needs and populations.

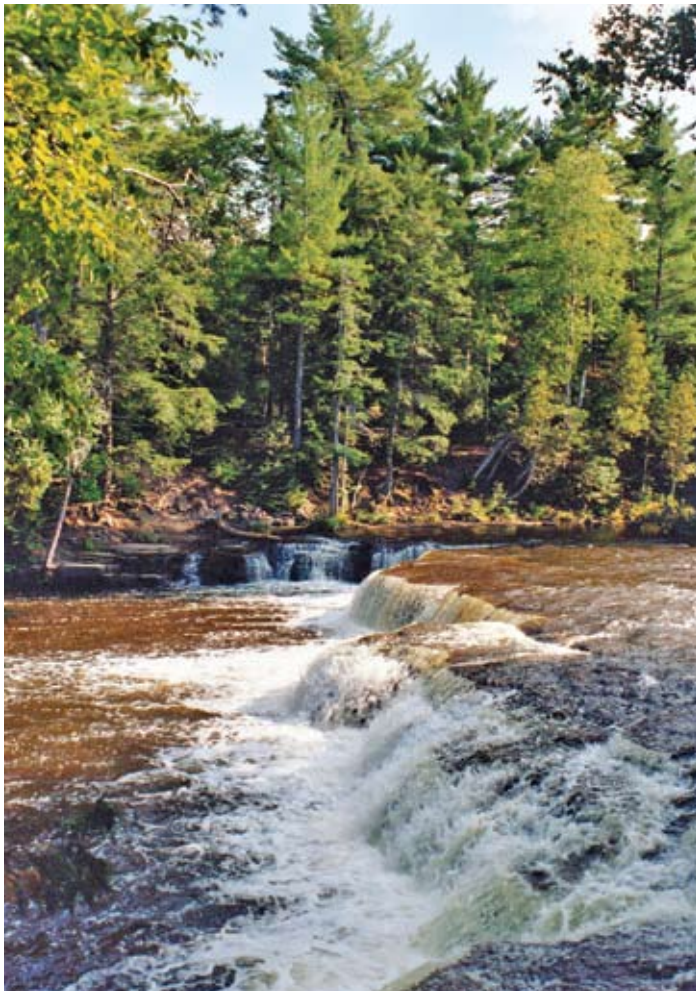
In addition to funding challenges at the federal, state and local levels, Michigan legislators are also busy introducing legislation that would undercut our natural assets, from diverting money away from the wildly popular Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to undermining longstanding protections for critical lakeshore dunes.

Garmon is optimistic nonetheless.

"Investments in outdoor recreation and natural resource protection are vital economic development tools in the new economy. I think there is widespread acceptance of that," he said. "When a college graduate decides where to put down roots or start their business, they will head to places where they can be active and enjoy the outdoors and a healthy quality of life. With some smart investments, Michigan can be that place."

—By Andrew McGlashen, MEC

TRAVEL MICHIGAN/GARY PLATTE



Tahquamenon Falls State Park in Michigan's Upper Peninsula

Vital discussions –

continued from page 3

As always, local legislators attended and in some cases presented at our meetings, which we hope to make even more informative in 2012.

Legislative luncheon

More than 125 legislators, policy makers and others joined MEC on June 28 for a luncheon where we shared the findings of our report on the health care costs of Michigan's oldest coal plants. The panel discussion focused on:

- A quick review of how utility rates are set and adjusted under Michigan law
- A progress report on Michigan's Clean Energy legislation (Public Acts 286 and 295 of 2008)
- A snapshot of Michigan's current fleet of power plants
- New data on health care costs associated with older coal-fired facilities
- Recommendations for better ratepayer protection going forward

Governor's meeting

On July 12, 2011, MEC hosted a meeting with Gov. Rick Snyder and our member groups and allies. The meeting was held in the Governor's Conference Room and included 14 members of the environmental, conservation and conservancy communities. The governor opened with a summary of his perspective on environmental issues. The rest of the agenda focused on clean energy, the governor's urban initiatives/policies, water infrastructure, and state lands. It was a constructive meeting and anticipated to be the first of many.



MEC staffers at the Northern Michigan Regional Meeting in Traverse City included, from left: Kate Madigan, Tim Fischer, Andy Draheim, James Clift, Allie Muchmore, Brad Garmon and Andrew McGlashen.

Infrastructure message

MEC, along with the Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Chamber of Commerce, and Michigan Infrastructure Transportation Association, helped provide input to the Snyder administration in advance of the governor's special message to the legislature in October on infrastructure and transportation. This was a great opportunity to really influence the Governor's transportation and infrastructure policies. The groups around the table have much in common on these two important issues.

Rail Summit

On Oct. 31, more than 200 people packed a Lansing meeting room for Michigan Rail Summit 2011, coordinated by MEC with cosponsors including the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers, Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Railroads Association, and The Right Place, Inc. The agenda focused on statewide passenger and freight rail development and provided an opportunity for national and state leaders to share their

thoughts and expertise on an array of topics related to rail transportation in Michigan.

Keynote speaker Gov. Rick Snyder discussed the importance of freight and passenger rail in the state's economy. U.S. Department of Transportation Deputy Secretary John Porcari and Federal Railroad Administration Administrator Joseph Szabo presented a federal perspective on the need for investment in rail.

Other presenters included Michigan Department of Transportation Director Kirk Steudle and former mayor of Meridian, MS, John Robert Smith. There was a panel discussion with elected officials, including State Senator John Proos and State Representative Wayne Schmidt.

It's been a busy couple of months, but great to get around the state to listen to our member groups, strengthen our bonds and re-energize our efforts. There is still a lot of work in front of us, but we're glad we have member groups, allies and coalition partners to stand with us in protecting Michigan's environment! ■

Thank you to our generous supporters

We are grateful to the following individuals who made financial contributions to the Michigan Environmental Council since the last edition of the *Michigan Environmental Report*:

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Andrew & Kristen White
Kim Winchell
Roger Wykes



Efficiency first!

MEC Energy Program Director David Gard, foreground, presented this fall at a Lansing Board of Water & Light seminar exploring social marketing of energy efficiency measures. MEC cosponsored the event, which examined ways to engage the community to ensure that efficiency goals are met or exceeded.

Coming in the winter e-edition!

How Crystal Mountain is pioneering sustainability in the resort industry



The Crystal Mountain Spa is the Midwest's only LEED-certified spa.

It's the time of year when Michigan skiers expect deep powder, fast chairlifts and a toasty-warm lodge at the end of a long day on the slopes. Accommodating them takes massive amounts of energy—electricity to power the chairlifts and snowmaking equipment, natural gas or propane to heat buildings, and gasoline to run grooming equipment.

Those costs are both a burden and a challenge at the Crystal Mountain Resort and Spa, where staffers have earned national recognition for finding creative solutions to drive down energy use and waste at the expansive resort.

From super-efficient water pumps and snow guns to pioneering work in composting golf course grass clippings, groundwater heat pumps, and the region's only LEED-certified spa, Crystal Mountain is setting a high standard for sustainability in the resort industry.

For owner Jim MacInnes, earth-friendly practices often make good business sense for Crystal Mountain, Benzie County's largest employer with 450 workers (600 in the



Jim MacInnes of Crystal Mountain with his Chevy Volt electric vehicle.

wintertime). Smart choices can save money and provide a buffer against fluctuating oil, coal and gas prices. But it's also a moral imperative for MacInnes, who is perhaps the industry's most outspoken Michigan proponent of clean energy policies and sustainable practices.

Read more about Crystal Mountain's pioneering efforts in resort sustainability and MacInnes' commitment in the *Michigan Environmental Report's* first online newsletter of 2012, coming soon! Subscribe to the electronic edition at www.environmentalcouncil.org or at <http://bit.ly/o7ro23>. ■



Patty Birkholz

In our upcoming e-edition: **Patty Birkholz talks offshore wind**

Former State Senator Patty Birkholz—known for her effectiveness and for her trademark purple wardrobe—is Gov. Rick Snyder's director of the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes. MEC member group Michigan Land Use Institute (MLUI) talked with Birkholz in an extensive interview on offshore wind in Michigan. While she was careful not to predict when and how aggressively Gov. Snyder might act on the issue, she did say the administration is supportive of wind energy both as an important part of the state's generating capacity and as a job-creating industry.

"Many of our best and brightest are killed in wars over oil and even coal, and we are better off as a country being more energy independent," Birkholz told MLUI.

Read selected parts of the interview in January's edition of the *Michigan Environmental Report Online*. Subscribe to the e-newsletter at: <http://bit.ly/o7ro23>. ■

What services do natural ecosystems provide you?

Find out at the Stewardship Network's upcoming conference

The Stewardship Network, an MEC member group, invites participants to their fifth annual conference, "The Science, Practice & Art of Restoring Native Ecosystems," January 20–21, 2012, at Michigan State University's Kellogg Center in East Lansing.

Each year, more than 300 volunteer and professional land managers, researchers, contractors, ecologists, restorationists and private property owners gather to discuss new research and best practices for caring for natural lands and waters in the Great Lakes region.



Wind and faith

MEC member group Michigan Interfaith Power and Light (Michigan IPL) brought together clergy from a half-dozen different faiths to tour the \$440 million Gratiot County Wind Farm in November. The group was comprised of Muslim, Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, and Lutheran denomination representatives. They went to Breckenridge to participate in the Wind Working Group's tour of the Gratiot wind facility. A short educational program was part of the tour. Tiffany Hartung of the Sierra Club discussed many of the health impacts of coal-fired electricity generation, and John Sarver discussed the potential of renewable energy in his "Michigan's Energy Future" presentation. The clergy networked with other participants and viewed installed wind turbines and partially installed turbines. The facility eventually will have 133 1.6-megawatt turbines supplying electricity to 50,000 homes, reports *The Saginaw News*. Michigan IPL hopes to offer similar tours quarterly in 2012.

The Science, Practice & Art of Restoring Native Ecosystems

January 20–21, 2012

The focus of the 2012 conference will be natural areas and ecosystem services. We derive a host of invaluable services from the biodiversity that surrounds us. The oxygen we breathe is provided by plants, the water we drink is filtered by wetlands, and one-third of the food we eat is a result of animal pollination. Between agriculture and ecotourism, our economy depends on these crucial services, not to mention the cultural and spiritual values we obtain from being in and around natural ecosystems.

The agenda includes a lineup of nearly 80 presentations on many great topics, including:

- Locating agricultural practices to maximize ecosystem benefits (*John Legge, The Nature Conservancy*)
- The effect of native wildflower planting size on beneficial insects and their ecosystem services (*Brett Blaauw, Michigan State University*)
- Budgeting for natural resources management (*Steve Woods, The Nature Conservancy*)
- Restoring Wild Rice in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (*Jason Carlson, Applied Ecological Services; Roger Labine, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa*)
- Winter Shrub Identification (*Martha Holzheuer, Environmental Consulting and Technology, Inc.*)

The conference also will explore the many aspects of using prescribed fire in restoration efforts, thanks to a partnership with the Lake States Fire Science Consortium.

Students from eight different colleges and universities will present their research as well as professionals from many different public and private groups.

For more details on our agenda, please visit www.StewardshipNetworkConference.org, where you may also register for the conference.

—By Erin Mittendorf, *The Stewardship Network*

MEC OVERHEARD IN THE NEWS

“We’ve got to start thinking about long-term sustainable practices in the City of Detroit.... Sooner or later, we’re going to learn not to burn trash. So let’s make the transition now when we can create twice as many jobs.”

—MEC’s Sandra Turner-Handy, in a story about the Detroit incinerator, published in the Huffington Post and numerous other outlets



Sandra Turner-Handy

“I got a lot of blank stares and confused looks ... the consensus was that this was a problem we had solved long ago.”

—MEC’s Tina Reynolds on the Nov. 1 Tony Trupiano Show (AM 1310 WDTW), discussing her outreach to legislators on childhood lead poisoning prevention

“Success will promote fairness, health, equity and opportunity for all Michiganders. It will mean a higher quality of life by connecting people to jobs, housing, neighborhoods and marketplaces, both for those who have the means to own a personal vehicle, and for those who do not.”

—MEC’s Chris Kolb in a joint opinion article with the NAACP’s Rev. Wendell Anthony published Nov. 9 in the Detroit Free Press

“This law assumes that rules written in Washington for waters in other states are good enough to protect our Great Lakes. They are not.”

—MEC’s James Clift in a Nov. 14 Associated Press story on controversial “No Stricter Than Federal” legislation (later vetoed by Gov. Rick Snyder)

“Our nation should invest vigorously in American-made energy-saving innovations and modern, cleaner technologies of the future.”

—MEC’s Hugh McDiarmid, Jr. in a September 29 Detroit News story on the proposed Keystone Pipeline

“Offshore wind turbines can produce more energy than those on land and could significantly reduce the need to buy out-of-state fuel.”

—MEC’s Clift in the Oct. 7 Traverse City Record Eagle

“Protecting our rivers starts with being knowledgeable and not relying on word-of-mouth or assuming the conditions of the water.”

—MEC’s Andrew McGlashen in a Nov. 9 mlive.com story about the Michigan River News website, which he cofounded (www.michiganrivernews.com)

“Energy conservation is the least expensive and fastest way to meet our energy needs, and it’s the only energy option that actually saves customers money.”

—McDiarmid, Jr. in a Nov. 27 Associated Press story on energy efficiency programs

“This is probably the greatest opportunity for the expansion of rail in our state in 100 years.”

—Ann Arbor Mayor John Hieftje, in a Nov. 2 Lansing City Pulse article, speaking at the Michigan Rail Summit organized by MEC



Support MEC and stay informed

Financial contributors to the Michigan Environmental Council (MEC) provide vital support for our work to defend Michigan’s natural heritage. They also receive four quarterly issues of the *Michigan Environmental Report*, the state’s best source for the latest news affecting Michigan’s water, land and air.

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MEC is a 501(c)(3) organization; contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

The Michigan Action Project (MAP) is a “rapid response” electronic alert system which fosters communication between the public and policy makers on important environmental issues.

Michigan Environmental Council

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MEC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

4 Towns Citizen Action Team (248) 363-6128	Friends of the Rouge (313) 792-9900 www.therouge.org	Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation (231) 972-8856 www.savemewater.org	Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) (312) 587-8390 www.mwalliance.org
Alliance for the Great Lakes (616) 850-0745 www.greatlakes.org	Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (231) 534-7500	Michigan Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (MI-COEJL) (248) 642-5393 www.mi-coejl.org	Muskegon Save Our Shoreline (231) 670-6059 www.muskegonsaveourshoreline.org
Anglers of the AuSable (248) 651-5751 www.ausableanglers.org	HARBOR Inc. (231) 526-5060 www.harborinc.org	Michigan Energy Options (517) 337-0422 www.michiganenergyoptions.org	NAACP-Michigan State Conference (313) 835-9671 www.michigannaacp.org
Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS) (313) 216-2244 www.accesscommunity.org	Huron River Watershed Council (734) 769-5123 www.hrwc.org	Michigan Interfaith Power and Light (248) 808-2518 www.miipl.org	Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council (231) 946-6931 www.nmeac.org
Brownstown Land Conservancy (734) 782-5834	Kalamazoo Environmental Council (269) 344-0536 www.kalamazooenvironmentalcouncil.org	Michigan Land Trustees (269) 343-4748 www.michiganlandtrust.org	Republicans for Environmental Protection, Michigan Chapter (269) 651-9397 www.repamerica.org/mi/mi_index.html
Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination (989) 544-3318 www.caccmi.org	Kalamazoo River Cleanup Coalition (269) 382-0490 www.kalrivercleanup.org	Michigan Land Use Institute (231) 941-6584 www.mlui.org	Romulus Environmentalists Care About People (RECAP) (734) 753-4320
Clean Water Fund (517) 203-0754 www.cleanwater.org/mi/	Lapeer Land Conservancy (810) 664-5647 gblc.lapeer.org	Michigan League of Conservation Voters Education Fund (734) 222-9650 www.michiganlcv.org	Scenic Michigan (231) 347-1171 www.scenicmichigan.org
Concerned Citizens of Acme Township (616) 485-3749	League of Michigan Bicyclists (517) 334-9100 www.lmb.org	Michigan Mountain Biking Association (248) 359-7509 www.mmba.org	Sierra Club, Michigan Chapter (517) 484-2372 michigan.sierraclub.org
Detroit Audubon Society (248) 634-7668 www.detroitaudubon.org	League of Women Voters of Michigan (517) 484-5383 www.lwvmi.org	Michigan Natural Areas Council (734) 975-7800 www.cyberspace.org/~mnac	Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (734) 240-9700 www.ihmsisters.org
Detroit RiverFront Conservancy (313) 566-8200 www.detroitriverfront.org	Legacy Land Conservancy (734) 302-5263 www.legacylandconservancy.org	Michigan Nature Association (517) 655-5655 www.michigannature.org	Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy (248) 601-2816 www.sixriversrlc.org
Dwight Lydell Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America (616) 866-4769 www.michiganikes.org	Liaison for Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (517) 349-6466	Michigan Nurses Association (517) 349-5640 www.minurses.org	Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy (734) 484-6565 www.smlcland.org
East Michigan Environmental Action Council (248) 258-5188 www.emecac.org	LocalMotionGreen (313) 881-2263 www.localmotiongreen.org	Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance (MOFFA) www.moffa.org	Stewardship Network (734) 996-3190 www.stewardshipnetwork.org
Ecology Center (734) 663-2400 www.ecocenter.org	Lone Tree Council (989) 686-6386	Michigan Recycling Coalition (517) 974-3672 www.michiganrecycles.org	Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council (231) 347-1181 www.watershedcouncil.org
Environment Michigan Research & Policy Center (734) 662-9797 www.environmentmichigan.org	Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers, Inc. (586) 726-9737 www.marp.org	Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance (517) 485-6022 www.michigantrails.org	Transportation Riders United (313) 963-8872 www.detroittransit.org
Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan (517) 383-2519 www.eccscm.org	Michigan Audubon Society (517) 886-9144 www.michiganaudubon.org	Michigan Trout Unlimited (517) 599-5238 www.michiganttu.org	Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition (906) 524-7899 www.upenvironment.org
Friends of the Cedar River Watershed (231) 347-1519	Michigan Botanical Club (616) 454-4328 www.michbotclub.org	Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council www.midmeac.org	Voices for Earth Justice (248) 351-9001 www.voices4earth.org
Friends of the Detroit River (734) 675-0141 www.detroitriver.org	Michigan Citizens Against Toxic Substances (734) 587-3631 www.mcats.org		West Michigan Environmental Action Council (616) 451-3051