

# 2024 State of the Bay Conference

September 26, 2024

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



## Agenda

**7:30AM—8:15AM Registration/Continental Breakfast**

**8:30AM—9:30AM Welcome/Introduction**

**Location:** Grand Ballroom Salon C & D

**Opening Remarks:** Michael Kelly, The Conservation Fund / Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network

**Welcome:** Jim Barcia, Bay County Executive

**Keynote:** Jane Elder, Author of *Wilderness, Water and Rust: A Journey Toward Great Lakes Resilience*

**9:30AM—9:45AM Break**

**9:45AM—10:45AM Breakout Session I**

**Saginaw Bay 101**

**Location:** Davidson 1 & 2

**Speakers:** Michigan Area of Concern Program; Saginaw Bay Public Advisory Council

**Moderator:** Meaghan Gass, Michigan SeaGrant

**Midland / Tittabawassee Flood Reduction Update: Midland Business Alliance Committee on Infrastructure**

**Location:** Davidson 3 & 4

**Speakers:** Lee Ann Keller & J.W. Fisher, Co-Chairs; Bill Schuette, Community Volunteer; Nick Czerwinski, Spicer Group; Joe Sova, Midland County Drain Commissioner

**Moderator:** Elan Lipschitz, Little Forks Conservancy

**Land Conservation to Protect Water Quality**

**Location:** Salon A

**Speakers:** Ian Ableson, Six Rivers Land Conservancy; Devon Munsell, HRC Engineering Consultants

**Moderator:** Emily Kemp, Huron Pines

**10:45AM—11:00AM Break**

**11:00AM—12:00PM Breakout Session II**

**Saginaw Bay Monitoring Consortium: A Progress Report on Activities and Results**

**Location:** Davidson 1 & 2

**Speakers:** Bretton Joldersma, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; David Karpovich, SVSU; Sherry Martin, U.S. Geological Survey; Tami Sivy, SVSU; Craig Stow, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Gust Annis, The Nature Conservancy; Doug Pearsall, The Nature Conservancy

**Moderator:** Charlie Bauer, EGLE

**The Business of Saginaw Bay**

**Location:** Davidson 3 & 4

**Speakers:** Michael Pavan, Northwoods Wholesale Outlet; Stacie Scherman, Nor'East Outdoors; Captain Shane Dietrich, Dietrich's Sportfishing Charters

**Moderator:** Jonathan Jarosz, Land of Outsiders

**Education and Partnerships for Conservation and Sustainability**

**Location:** Salon A

**Speakers:** Dennis Pilaske, Chippewa Nature Center; Emily Gochis, University of Michigan, Dow Sustainability Fellows; Cyndie Roberts, Go Green Sustainability Club, HH Dow High School

**Moderator:** Rich Vantol, Bay Arenac Intermediate School District

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**12:00PM—12:15PM Break**

**12:15PM—1:30PM Lunch**

### **The Future of Saginaw Bay Watershed Climate – What Can Climate Models Tell Us?**

**Location:** Grand Ballroom Salon C & D

**Introduction:** Mike Colucci, Citizen's Climate Lobby, Saginaw Bay Chapter

**Speaker:** Dr. Daria Kluver, Professor of Climatology, Central Michigan University

**1:30PM—1:45PM Break**

**1:45PM—2:45PM Breakout Session III**

### **Saginaw Bay Fisheries Update**

**Location:** Davidson 1 & 2

**Speakers:** Dr. Jeff Jolley, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Saginaw Bay Fisheries Update; Justin Chiotti, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Saginaw Bay Sturgeon Restoration Update

**Moderator:** Josh Leisen, Huron Pines

### **Where the River Meets the Bay: A Future Vision for Public Access**

**Location:** Davidson 3 & 4

**Speakers:** Trevor Edmonds, Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy

**Moderator:** Michael Colucci, Citizen's Climate Lobby, Saginaw Bay Chapter

### **Urban Spaces, Conservation Places**

**Location:** Salon A

**Speakers:** Jonathan Jarosz, Heart of the Lakes; Janell O'Keefe, Center for Community Progress; Brian Keenan-Lechel, Saginaw County Parks

**2:45PM—3:00PM Break**

**3:00PM—4:00PM Breakout Session IV**

### **Tittabawassee and Saginaw River Damage Assessment and Restoration Update**

**Location:** Davidson 1 & 2

**Speakers:** Kaylyn Flanigan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Diane Russell, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Moderator:** Laura Ogar, Bay County

### **Community Events: Building Pride and the Economic Impact of our Rivers and Bay**

**Location:** Davidson 3 & 4

**Speakers:** Tim Shelton, Go Great Lakes Bay CVB; Bri Marrah – "Shi-Tri" Shiawassee Triathlon; Pam Labadie, Huron River Watershed Council

**Moderator:** David Lossing, Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition

### **Lake Huron Forever**

**Location:** Salon A

**Speakers:** Shelli Thurston, City of Bay City, Dale Wiltse, City Of Au Gres; Samantha Nellis, Huron Pines; Zoë Goodrow Kuntze, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

**Moderator:** Patrick Heraghty, Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan

**4:00PM—5:30PM Reception**

**Location:** Doubletree Patio Riverside

**Sponsored by Saginaw Valley State University**

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