



Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network  
The Conservation Fund  
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News Release

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## **“State of the Bay” Conference to highlight Saginaw Bay and Watershed Projects and Programs**

*Partners will present projects ranging from riverfront development initiatives to fisheries issues, education and restoration projects*

Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network partners will host the first “State of the Bay” conference on September 27, 2017 at the Doubletree Hotel in Bay City. For more information see [www.stateofthebay2017.org](http://www.stateofthebay2017.org).

The State of the Bay conference is designed to highlight ongoing work to improve and protect Saginaw Bay, and what communities and groups across the Saginaw Bay Watershed are doing to encourage public access, economic development, environmental education and watershed management. The conference is sponsored by the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network and its partners, and is generously supported by The Cook Family Foundation. A keynote presentation will be provided by Dr. Jeff Reuter of the Ohio Sea Grant College Program who will be discussing the similarities between Saginaw Bay and Lake Erie, and the challenges that they are dealing with along Lake Erie in particular. A lunch presentation will be provided by Sheila Stamiris of the City of Frankenmuth who will discuss their recent project to remove the 160-year-old Frankenmuth Dam and reopen the Cass River to fisheries access and public recreation. In addition, more than a dozen break-out sessions will take place throughout the day at the conference center and across the street at the Delta College Planetarium.

“We live and work in the Saginaw Bay Watershed, and it gives us an appreciation of nature and a connection to the waters of Great Lakes. These connections are vital to building a sustainable future for the people and communities we care about. This conference allows us to connect to the people who care about the Saginaw Bay Watershed and who work to build a sustainable future for the places where we live and work”, said Tom Cook of The Cook Family Foundation.

A reception sponsored by The Conservation Fund and Northern United Brewing Company’s Jolly Pumpkin and North Peak Brewing will conclude the event with an optional cruise aboard Bay City’s own Appledore Tall Ships.

“We are very fortunate to have an abundance of fresh water in our great state. Michigan is home to some of the best breweries and other agricultural production in the world and without our great water we would not have great beer! As we have seen from the recent tragic events in Flint, we cannot take this for granted and must be vigilant in our pursuit of protecting such a treasure. We are proud to be a small part of this great day with The Conservation Fund and Saginaw Bay WIN partners in Bay City.” Said Tony Grant, CEO of Northern United Brewing Company. Northern United is planning a facility in Bay City.

*The Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) is a collaborative, community driven quality of life initiative created by a variety of environmental, business and community interests in 1996. WIN was formed to create a more sustainable future for all who live, work and play within the Saginaw Bay watershed. More information on WIN is available at [www.saginawbaywin.org](http://www.saginawbaywin.org) or by calling 989.892.9171.*