



# Working Waterfronts in Michigan

March 17-18, 2009

Radisson Hotel Lansing, Capitol Rooms 1 & 2 • 111 N. Grand Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933

DRAFT 3-5-09

TUESDAY,  
MARCH 17

Registration open 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

Introductions / Welcome

Dr. Jim Diana, Director, Michigan Sea Grant, University of Michigan

Dr. Tom Coon, Director, Michigan State University Extension

Conference Charge: Ken DeBeaussaert, Director, Michigan Office of the Great Lakes

Cathie Cunningham Ballard, Director, Michigan Coastal Management Program

10:35 a.m.

National Perspective on Working Waterfront Issues – State Approaches to Jobs, Access, and Public Trust Waters

Tom Murray, Program Leader - Coastal Development, Virginia Sea Grant

11:15 a.m.

Florida's State Constitutional Amendment in 2008: Issues & Lessons for Other States

John Sprague, Marine Industries Association of Florida

12:15 p.m.

Luncheon (included)

Speaker: John Austin, Waterfronts of the Great Lakes in the New Economy

Executive Director of the New Economy Initiative for Southeast Michigan; and Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution, Ann Arbor, MI

2:00 p.m.

How Communities are Defining Working Waterfronts in Michigan

Mark Breederland, Michigan Sea Grant Extension

2:45 p.m.

Fishtown: Working Waterfront Protection in Leland, MI

Dr. Amanda Holmes, Fishtown Preservation Society 501(c)3

3:30 p.m.

Break

4:00 p.m.

Port Authorities in Michigan

John Kerr, Detroit Wayne County Port Authority

5:00 p.m.

Reception / Hors d'oeuvres, cash bar

Dinner on own



WEDNESDAY,  
MARCH 18

Coffee & rolls  
Morning Moderator: **Chuck Pistis**, Michigan Sea Grant

8:00 a.m. **Legislative Panel - Moderator: Mark Wyckoff**, MSU Land Policy Program

**Rep. Rebekah Warren**, 53rd District  
**Rep. Dan Scripps**, 101st District (leaving early)  
**Rep. Ed Clemente**, 14th District (leaving early)  
**Sen. Patty Birkholz**, District 24  
**Sen. Jason Allen**, District 37

9:45 a.m. **Break**

10:00 a.m. **Planning and Other Tools for Working Waterfronts**  
**Patrick Doher**, Sr. Vice President, JJR Inc.

10:45 a.m. **Closing Panel, Issues Facing Michigan**  
**Van Snider**, President, Michigan Boating Industries Association  
**Dave Knight**, Special Projects Manager, Great Lakes Commission  
**Dr. Mary Ann Heidemann**, Educator, MSU Extension Land Use, Northeast Michigan  
**Deb Evashevski**, Director, St. Ignace Downtown Development Authority

11:45 a.m. **Summary / Next Steps**  
**Chuck Pistis**, Program Leader, Michigan Sea Grant Extension

12:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

Steering Committee:

Cathie Ballard & Matt Smar, MDEQ Coastal Programs  
Van Snider, MBIA  
James Y. Stewart, Butzel Long / MBIA  
Dave Knight, GLC  
John Kerr, DWCPA  
Amanda Holmes, Fishtown Preservation Society  
Pat Doher, JJR  
Chuck Pistis, Sea Grant  
Mark Breederland, Sea Grant

For those needing hotel reservations, Michigan Sea Grant has reserved a block of rooms. Single or double rooms are available for \$105 by calling the Radisson Hotel directly at 1-800-333-3333 or 517-482-0188, or by going online at [www.radisson.com/lansingmi](http://www.radisson.com/lansingmi) and using the Promotional Code: WATER9.

## LEGISLATORS

[Sen. Patty Birkholz](#) - (R) District 24

[Sen. Jason Allen](#) - (R) District 37

[Rep. Rebekah Warren](#) - (D) 53rd District

[Rep. Dan Scripps](#) - (D) 101st District

[Rep. Ed Clemente](#) - (D) 14th District

## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

[Jim Diana](#) - Dr. Jim Diana joined Michigan Sea Grant in March 2009. As Director for Michigan Sea Grant, Diana is involved in leading the statewide program in its research, education and outreach efforts on critical Great Lakes issues, such as sustainable coastal development, fisheries, and other issues. He has been at The University of Michigan since 1979 and served as Associate Dean of the School of Natural Resources & Environment from 1999-2007.

[Tom Coon](#) - Dr. Thomas Coon is Director of Michigan State University Extension and Professor in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University. He is responsible for providing leadership to an organization that has over 1,200 full/part-time staff and faculty both on the MSU campus and in each of Michigan's 83 counties. He has conducted fisheries and aquatic research on the Great Lakes and has taught university level courses for over 25 years.

[Ken DeBeaussaert](#) - Ken was appointed by Governor Granholm to serve as the Director of the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes in 2003 and serves as a member of the Governor's Cabinet. He is also appointed to the Great Lakes Protection Fund Board of Directors, serves on the Executive Board of the Great Lakes Commission, and is a member of the Water Quality Board of the International Joint Commission. He served 18 years in the Michigan Legislature, 10 years in the Michigan House and eight years in the State Senate, ending in December of 2002 due to term limits.

[Cathie Cunningham Ballard](#) - Cathie is the Director of the Michigan Coastal Management Program of the Michigan DEQ. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Michigan Association of Planning and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Alumni Board of Directors. She was DEQ staff to the Governor's Land Use Leadership Council, and was the DEQ Representative on the Department of Natural Resources and Dept. of Agriculture's Purchase of Development Rights Review Committee (1995-2002). Ms. Ballard was the recipient of the 2003 "Outstanding State Official", Michigan Association of Regions

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**Tom Murray** - Thomas J. Murray is both Coastal Development Specialist and Associate Director for Virginia Sea Grant's Marine Advisory Services at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, in Gloucester Point, VA. Tom led Water Access 2007, A National Symposium on Working Waterways & Waterfronts in Norfolk, VA, with diverse groups including Boat U.S., States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA), the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation, and presentations representing over a dozen coastal states from both government and private sector perspectives. Tom has an excellent grasp of various state approaches and has continued to champion this issue, moderating a national e-mail list on the topic.

**John Sprague** - John is Past President and current Governmental Affairs Chair of the Marine Industries Association of Florida. As well, he is a marina owner in Palm Beach County, FL. John has worked for years on working waterfront issues in Florida which recently culminated in a landslide vote by the citizens of Florida in November, 2008. Amendment 6, a state constitutional amendment requires tax assessment of working waterfronts at current use values instead of highest and best use, was passed by a 70.5% of the vote of the people. John also is appointed by the Secretary of Interior to serve on the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council, which advises the Secretary of Interior on nationally significant recreational fishing, boating and aquatic conservation issues.

**John Austin** - John Austin is a Nonresident Senior Fellow with the Brookings Institution, as well as a Michigan statewide elected official, serving as Vice-President of the Michigan State Board of Education (he was re-elected to an 8 year term in 11/08). John directs the Great Lakes Economic Initiative for Brookings, created to improve the economic vitality of the region. As well, in April, 2008, he also became the executive director of The New Economy Initiative for Southeast Michigan (NEI), one of the largest philanthropic initiatives in the country focused on regional economic development. John led the 2008 Brookings Institution report "Place-Specific Benefits of Great Lakes Restoration" and the 2007 report "The Vital Center: A Federal State Compact to Renew the Great Lakes Region".

**Mark Breederland** - Mark has served as Extension Educator for the Michigan Sea Grant College Program since 1995. He has worked both in the Southeast Michigan and the Northwest Lower Michigan districts and has worked collaboratively with numerous federal, state, local agencies and communities on a variety of Great Lakes environmental conservation projects. He has presented papers on working waterfronts at The Coastal Society's 21st Biennial Conference in 2008 as well as Water Access 2007.

**Amanda Holmes** - Amanda is Administrative Director for the Fishtown Preservation Society 501(c)3 organization in Leland, MI. Amanda holds a Ph.D. in Folklore and a Certificate in Historic Preservation from the University of Pennsylvania and she has written numerous architectural, landscape and engineering studies for the National Park Service. The Fishtown Preservation Society holds deed to a historic cultural/tourist working waterfront, owns commercial fishing boats and licenses, and seeks to preserve the historical integrity of Leland, Michigan's Fishtown property, ensuring that it continues as a publicly accessible and authentic connection to local and regional history, Great Lakes commercial fishing, and maritime traditions and experiences.

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**John Kerr** - John is the Director of Economic Development & Grants Management at the Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority where he has served since 1998. He has overseen the Port Authority's first bond issuance in 2004 and has been actively involved with the Michigan Port Cities Collaborative since its inception in 2007.

**Mark Wyckoff** - Mark Wyckoff, FAICP, has served since 2006 as Professor & Director of the Planning & Zoning Center at Michigan State University and Senior Associate Director of MSU's Land Policy Institute. He is a community planner with over 30 years experience, is a frequent workshop and conference speaker, and a leader in land use policy discussions in Michigan. He co-authored the 2003 publication Filling the Gaps: Environmental Protection Options for Local Governments which deals with many Great Lakes coastal issues.

**Patrick Doher** - Patrick M. Doher, P.E., serves as Sr. Vice President at JJR, LLC, a national landscape architecture, planning, urban design, and waterfronts firm based in Ann Arbor, MI. He is an experienced and highly respected waterfront engineer and has led many large-scale waterfront planning and design efforts. Pat has a passion for urban waterfront redevelopment initiatives and a proven record of providing quality services with a high level of technical excellence. He has recently presented to the U.S. EPA on the sustainable stormwater management and green initiatives associated with the riverwalk and state park.

**Van Snider** - Van W. Snider, Jr., CAE is President of the Michigan Boating Industries Association. Van is responsible for the overall management of the association and spends much of his time working on legislation, boat shows, member issues and industry relations. Van, a Certified Association Executive since 1989 joined the MBIA in 1990.

**Dave Knight** - Dave Knight is special projects manager for the Great Lakes Commission in Ann Arbor, MI. He has served the Commission as a marine transportation specialist and has responsibilities in several project areas that examine the interface between maritime transportation and resource use, development and protection. Prior to joining the Commission, Dave wrote about the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway system for 16 years as editor of Great Lakes/Seaway Review quarterly magazine, Great Lakes/Seaway Log, a biweekly newsletter and the biannual Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway Directory, all based in Boyne City, Michigan.

**Mary Ann Heidemann** - Mary Ann currently serves MSU Extension as Land Use Educator for an eighteen county region in Northeast Lower Michigan. She teaches classes in planning, zoning, natural resources and public administration and provides technical assistance to local units of government, non-profit groups and civic organizations within her service area. Before joining MSU Extension, Heidemann worked extensively in planning and zoning. She was Owner and Principal Planner for Mary Ann Heidemann & Associates, a planning consulting firm with offices in Rogers City and Boyne City. Subsequently, she served as Vice President for Planning in Wade-Trim's Northern Michigan offices. As a practicing planner, Heidemann managed numerous public infrastructure and community development projects, and specialized in environmental impact assessment. Mary Ann holds a Doctorate in Land Resources and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. She is registered in Michigan as a Professional Community Planner. Dr. Heidemann is a member of the Michigan Association of Planning, the American Planning Association and the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). She also holds a Michigan Residential Builders License.

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**Deb Evashevski** - Deb is the Downtown Development Authority Director for the City of St. Ignace, Michigan. She has had active involvement in the Michigan Port Cities Collaborative since 2006.

**Chuck Pistis** - Chuck Pistis is the Program Leader for the Michigan Sea Grant Extension program (2007-current). With Michigan Sea Grant, both as district educator and as MSU Extension Director in Ottawa County, Chuck has extensive knowledge of coastal communities having worked with fishing, boating, business and community interests in Michigan for over 30 years.