

WM-AWMA 2024 Spring Conference

Powering a Sustainable Future

Speaker Biographies (listed in chronological order)



ANNETTE SWITZER is director of the Air Quality Division (AQD) of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). Annette led AQD's Permit Section for seven years prior to being named director in early 2023. As Section Manager, she improved public participation by implementing enhancements to the engagement process and was heavily involved in an air permit lean process improvement that streamlined air permitting in Michigan. Annette began her civil service career as an air permit engineer where she used her education to work on the most complicated air permit applications. She is a proud graduate of Michigan Technological University with a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering, and she also maintains a professional engineers license.

ELIZABETH (LIZ) BROWNE is director of the Materials Management Division in the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) where she manages the staff and programs. She oversees the hazardous and solid waste programs, radiological protection efforts, and sustainability programs, including the Office of Energy.

Liz has worked to merge the traditional waste programs with the pollution prevention, climate, and energy work that are vital to sustainability and Michigan's commitment to a circular economy: eliminating waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems. A major effort involved a broad stakeholder group convened to update the solid waste statute to help transition Michigan away from a landfill focus and toward recycling.

Liz has worked in many of the programs that now make up EGLE. She has had management roles in the Superfund and Storage Tank programs. She also led the division responsible for wetlands, dunes, dams, and shorelines. Other stints included working with drinking water and the water-related revolving loan programs. Browne also led the emergency management program for EGLE's predecessor agency.

MIKE NELLER is a native of East Lansing, Michigan and is currently the Director of the Remediation and Redevelopment Division of Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). Mike started off in EGLE in 2018 in the Materials Management Division as the Section Manager of the Radiological Protection Section before assuming his current position in December 2019. Prior to coming to work at the State of Michigan, Mike has enjoyed a varied and exciting career in many different vocations.

Mike attended college at the U.S. Naval Academy where he received his B.S. degree and was commissioned as a Naval Officer. Upon graduation he began his post graduate training and education as a nuclear engineer. Upon completion of this 12-month program he attended the Submarine Officer's Basic Course and began his over 25-year career as a Nuclear Submarine Officer. Mike served on four different submarines, both fast attack and strategic missile boats, and was the Commanding Officer of the USS Florida (SSBN 728) when it was part of the nation's strategic nuclear deterrence arsenal. Post 9-11 he was stationed overseas in Naples, Italy where he served as the Director of Submarine Operations in the Mediterranean and as the Chief of Staff of a multi-national intelligence gathering task force. Besides his time in operational assignments in the Navy, he served for two years on the Navy's Staff at the pentagon in addition to completing two tours of duty at two Universities (Cornell and Notre Dame) that had Naval Reserve Officer Training Units. While at Cornell he co-taught a course offered through the engineering department on Propulsion Systems and Ship Design and while at Notre Dame was both a Department Chair in addition to teaching a class on Leadership and Ethics.

After retirement from the Navy, Mike worked in manufacturing operations and maintenance at a solar panel company, a sportswear apparel company, and at an international company that manufactured household cleaning products. Prior to coming to EGLE, he was the Dean of Students at a private boarding school, Culver Academies, in Indiana for several years.

PHIL ARGIROFF is acting director of the Water Resources Division (WRD) for the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). Before becoming the WRD acting director, Phil spent 36 years in WRD in jobs including wastewater design review in SE MI, district supervisor in SE MI, Permits Section manager, and assistant division director in WRD. Phil worked on difficult compliance and permitting issues related to the City of Detroit and Great Lake Water Authority, particularly related to treatment of combined sewer overflows.

Phil started his career working for EPA Region 5 reviewing state drafted NPDES permits, and then was hired by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Surface Water Quality Division conducting stream surveys and modeling for conventional pollutants for NPDES permits.

Phil holds a BS degree in Chemical Engineering, and a MS degree in Environmental Engineering, both from the University of Michigan. He is also a registered professional engineer in Michigan. In June 2017, the Michigan Water Environment Association named him its Regulator of the Year.

Phil and his wife, Beth, have two energetic dogs at home, and enjoy spending time with their two grown children and their families, including one granddaughter.

JIM ROUSH is the Director of Environmental Compliance for Consumers Energy Company. In this role, he leads two teams that develop and implement environmental regulatory compliance strategies for climate change, air quality, water quality, and wildlife issues at the federal and state level. Prior serving in this role, Jim practiced law for six years as a member of Consumers Energy's Legal Department, providing advice on matters related to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. He graduated from Wayne State University Law School, *magna cum laude*, and received a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

KELLE CHRISTENSEN P.E. is the Director of Strategic Planning and Development at the Lansing Board of Water & Light. She is a Western Michigan University graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and a professional engineering license.

Kellee has over 32 years of experience in the public utility sector. She is experienced in distribution design in electric, water, steam, chilled water, and street lighting. She is experienced in electric vehicle infrastructure and early adoption pilots.

In her current role, Kellee is responsible for strategic planning, integrated resource and energy planning, purchase power agreements, and risk management. She is also responsible for the BWL's carbon neutrality strategy, including clean energy sourcing, energy waste reduction, electrification, electric vehicle charging, and distributed generation programs.

JON DECOOMAN is a Public Utilities Engineering Specialist in the Resource Optimization and Certification section at the Michigan Public Service Commission. In this role, he is part of a cross-functional team that leads Staff's evaluation of utility Integrated Resource Plans and is also the lead of Staff's internal energy storage work group, responsible for evaluating utility proposals related to energy storage and providing guidance to the Commission on setting policies impacting energy storage. Jon graduated from Saginaw Valley State University *summa cum laude* with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

JILL GREENBERG, for the last five years, has served as spokesperson for the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, primarily messaging on issues related to air quality, materials management and remediation/redevelopment. A crisis strategist, Jill has led communication response in several high-profile environmental emergency responses, and has collaborated with FEMA, the FBI and Department of Homeland Security in addition to local, state and elected representatives. Jill holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Central Michigan University (Fire Up!) and a master's in crisis comms from Purdue University (Boiler Up!).

KURT KISSLING is an environmental attorney at Warner Norcross + Judd LLP with decades of experience in all matters related to the Clean Air Act as well as its state and local counterparts, including permitting, compliance, enforcement, and advocacy. Regional and national clients across a variety of industries rely on Kurt's expertise to address complex air and waste matters that impact their operations. He received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Valparaiso University and attended Vermont Law School.

Outside of the office, Kurt loves to debate religion, politics and just about anything else. He also has a passion for sports. He plays (softball and volleyball), coaches (basketball, soccer, and baseball), and binge-watches (football, March Madness, the World Cup and playoffs of all sorts). In particular, Kurt relishes his opportunities to coach kids. Kurt says, "There is nothing quite like that moment when kids score their first goal, sink the tough shot, or get the clutch hit. When you see their face light up with joy, it's a precious sensation to know that you were a part of that achievement." (Kurt's complete bio: <https://www.wnj.com/people/kurt-a-kissling/>).

STEVE BEUKEMA is the Part 213 Program Specialist for EGLE's Remediation and Redevelopment Division. He started his career with EGLE as a student assistant in 2003 and was hired as a project manager in 2006 in the Kalamazoo District Office, where he worked primarily on overseeing liable party corrective actions and managing state-funded work at Part 213 sites. Dr. Beukema has a bachelor's degree in piano performance and German from Hope College, a bachelor's degree in geology from Grand Valley State University. He pursued additional undergraduate study in Germany and graduate work at New York University before earning graduate degrees in geology from Western Michigan University, including an M.S. degree with a research emphasis on Michigan's glacial geology and a Ph.D. with a research emphasis on the application of stable isotope geochemistry to paleoclimatology.

LIZ MARSH PE, CHMM is an Associate and Senior Environmental Engineer in Fishbeck's Ann Arbor office. Liz has nearly 30 years of environmental experience as a consultant specializing in regulatory compliance and due diligence for sectors such as food, automotive, consumer goods, utilities, rail, and oil and gas. She has completed numerous environmental compliance audits and emergency response activities with her focus being waste management including Resource Conservation and Recovery (RCRA) and Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) waste. In addition, Liz also has experience with plant decommissioning, closure, and demolition activities. Finally, Liz has a broad background in Site investigation and remediation.

Liz has an undergraduate degree in civil/environmental engineering from the University of Michigan and a graduate certificate in hazardous waste control from Wayne State University. She currently serves as a Director on the Michigan chapter of the Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals (Mi-AHMP) Board.

LILLIAN WOOLLEY is currently an environmental consultant for Fishbeck working in their in southeast Michigan office primarily on air quality permitting and compliance projects, ISO 14001/50001 implementation and maintenance as well as greenhouse gas inventories and sustainability projects. Her clients include manufacturing facilities, food processing plants and electric utilities. She is the Vice-Chair of the East Michigan AWMA Chapter. She is also the Air Quality Policy Committee Chair for the Michigan Manufacturer's Association and actively involved in discussions on Michigan's nonattainment areas. She is on the EGLE Air Quality Advisory Council. Prior to her work as an environmental consultant, she worked for DTE Energy for ten years where she supervised their air quality program including personnel working on construction air permits, ROPs, NSR litigation and CEMS. She was the MDEQ SE Michigan Air Quality District Supervisor and participated in the Wayne County Assumption Program. She spent eight years as the Air Quality Manager for ANR Pipeline Company where she supervised work in 15 states and where her group monitored compliance on over 60 compressor stations. She is a licensed professional engineer in Michigan. She also serves as the Marketing Director for the Environmental Management Department at Fishbeck.

VIMALA ANISHETTY has a PhD in Environmental Sciences from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor with 31 years of experience in the environmental field. She has helped Fortune 500 companies and government entities comply with environmental rules and regulations and developed many different types of environmental plans that provided innovative, cost effective solutions to promote environmentally sustainable enterprises.

Vimala has created Solid Waste/Materials Management Plans (MMP) for several Fortune 500 companies which included waste from various waste streams, including hazardous and non hazardous waste from industrial operations, food wastes from cafeterias, wastes from office and commercial buildings, as well as construction and demolition waste. She has helped these organizations develop MMPs that maximize reuse, recycling, and composting to maximize diversion rates and move closer to achieving zero waste to landfill goals.

ARIANA JESKE PE, PTOE serves as an Assistant Director at Mobile GR, the City of Grand Rapids' mobility and transportation department. There she leads the Traffic Engineering Safety and Mobility Policy and Planning groups. She has 18 years of experience on a variety of transportation projects around the globe in previous consulting roles; her role at the City of Grand Rapids is her first foray into the public sector. Ariana is a proud graduate of Michigan Technological University with a BS in Civil Engineering in 2005. After graduating, she left the great white north and moved to North Carolina for 6 years where she learned to be an engineer and appreciate southern accents, but never sweet tea. Ariana returned to Michigan and settled in West Michigan in 2011. She and her husband of 16 years, Chris, are parents to two rambunctious children, Aurora, 10, and Dario, 7. When not making the City of Grand Rapids a safer and easier place to move about, she likes to spend her time boating, watching Notre Dame football, reading, and cooking. Ariana grew up in the UP and might share her pasty recipe with you if you ask nicely.