

WM-AWMA 2022 Spring Conference LIVE!!

[Speaker Biographies \(listed in chronological order\)](#)



DARWIN (DAR) BAAS is the Director of Public Works in Kent County. Dar's focus is the emerging circular economy - providing leadership and visioning to deliver waste diversion, energy recovery and sustainable material management strategies.

Dar has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Davenport University and master's degree in public administration from Grand Valley State University and brings 30 years of environmental management experience in the public and private sector.

His work is centered in West Michigan, and he is involved in energy and waste policy at the local, state and national level and currently serves as a member of the board of directors for the Energy Recovery Council and Energy Michigan.

MARY ANN DOLEHANTY, is the Director of the Air Quality Division of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, and has held this position since 2018. Mary Ann has over 35 years of experience with EGLE in both water and air programs. She has had numerous roles in the Air Quality Division, including starting her time in the AQD as a permit engineer. Mary Ann is active in many Department initiatives on leadership, enhanced public participation, and process improvements. She is active in several state and national organizations including the Lake Michigan Air Director's Consortium. Mary Ann holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Michigan State University.

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.

MATT GAMBLE has worked for nearly 30 years in the environmental field for multiple state and federal agencies. He completed his undergraduate work in Geology at Western Carolina University and graduate work in Hydrogeology at California State University – Sacramento. He has worked at EGLE for the past 11 years; first as a Senior Geologist for the Grand Rapids District of the Remediation and Redevelopment Division, then as Supervisor of the Source Water Unit within the Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division, and now as Manager of Field Operations Section – West within the Remediation and Redevelopment Division. He has spent the bulk of his career conducting and overseeing site characterizations at sites of environmental contamination. He lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan with his wife, two sons, an adorable dog named Jasper, and six chickens.

JERROD SANDERS has worked for the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy for 17 years, all with Water Resources Division (WRD). He began his career in the Kalamazoo District Office and came to Lansing five years ago. Jerrod now manages WRD's statewide programs for wetlands; inland lakes, and streams; floodplains; and Great Lakes shorelines.

CHRIS OCCHIPINTI is a Project Professional for NTH Consultants, Ltd. He has over 15 years of experience in air quality consulting. He is active in professional organizations including West Michigan AWMA, Michigan Manufacturers Association, West Michigan Clean Air Coalition, and Michigan Waste and Recycling Association. After obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Physics from Michigan Technological University, he

headed south to thaw out and obtain a Master's degree in Atmospheric Science from North Carolina State University in 2006. In 2011 he took the opportunity to join NTH and move back to West Michigan.

CORY CONNOLLY is Climate & Energy Advisor, leading the Office of Climate & Energy for the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. He formerly Vice President for the Institute for Energy Innovation and the Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council, a clean energy trade association and he founded and ran the Michigan Clean Energy Leaders Project, a leadership program and network focused on building a more diverse and collaborative clean energy industry in Michigan. He spent time as Chief Operating Officer for Lean & Green Michigan, a clean energy finance company, and as a Senior Research Associate at the Environmental Law Institute. He is a graduate of James Madison College at Michigan State University with a degree in International Relations and specializations in Environmental Economics and Policy and Latin American and Caribbean Studies and holds a graduate certificate from Yale University in Financing and Deploying Clean Energy.

ABIGAIL (ABBY) HENDERSHOTT, a 30-year veteran of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), is the Executive Director of the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team. MPART is a multi-agency task force charged with investigating PFAS contamination, overseeing clean-up and other response activities aimed at protecting Michigan's drinking water.

Ms. Hendershott has focused on PFAS response activities since 2017 and led the team responsible for Michigan's largest PFAS contamination response to-date, the investigation into the former Wolverine Worldwide tannery in Rockford. In that role, her team was responsible for a \$113 million legal settlement establishing clean-up plans and municipal water connections for thousands of residents in northern Kent County.

She supervised the Remediation and Redevelopment Division's Grand Rapids district office and has more than 25 years of project management experience for complex environmental remediation projects.

JENN SPILLER is the Healthy and Sustainable Buildings Policy Specialist in the City of Grand Rapids Office of Sustainability. She leads the E.H.Zero initiative to co-create with community policies and programs make our local buildings more equitable, healthy, and energy efficient. Before joining the City, she worked for nearly a decade at the Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan helping families with young children with lead poisoning prevention, reducing asthma triggers, and fixing other housing hazards. Jenn is finishing up her Master of Public Health degree at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, focusing on environmental challenges.

ANNABELLE WILKINSON is the Environmental and Climate Justice Specialist at the City of Grand Rapids. In this role, she supports the inclusion of climate change and climate/environmental justice across City of Grand Rapids planning. Over the next two years she will lead the co-creation of City of Grand Rapids Climate Action and Adaptation Plan alongside community. Prior to joining the City, Annabelle worked on state-wide urban planning projects across the sectors of housing, transportation, and climate adaptation while at Michigan State University and promoted coalition building and neighborhood revitalization with Habitat for Humanity. Annabelle has a Master's in Urban and Regional Planning and a Bachelor's degree from Michigan State University.

BECKY FLASCK, CHMM, an Environmental Specialist, and **MEAGAN MCPHERSON**, CHMM, a Chemical Engineer, are based in Fishbeck's Grand Rapids office. Becky and Meagan have over 20 years combined consulting experience specializing in regulatory compliance for a variety of market sectors, such as food, automotive, consumer goods, aggregate, and asphalt. Becky has an undergraduate degree in Environmental Sciences from Lake Superior State University. Meagan has an undergraduate degree in Chemical Engineering from Purdue University.

ANNETTE SWITZER has been with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's Air Quality Division for 13 years. Prior to becoming the Permit Section Manager, Annette worked as a Permit Engineer reviewing new source review air permit applications. She has been involved in many efforts to improve Air Quality Division processes, including Lean Process Improvement, and public participation. Annette is a life-long Michigan resident and graduated from Michigan Technological University, with a degree in Environmental Engineering.