



The 13th Annual Conference of the Michigan Clean Water Corps

November 8-9, 2017 ❖ Kettunen Center ❖ 14901 4-H Drive, Tustin, MI

Wednesday, November 8 (Optional Pre-Conference Events)

12:45 – 5:00 pm **Conference / Training Registration and Check-In** (Mawby Learning Center, Downstairs Lobby)

1:00 – 5:00 pm **Training Workshops** (Mawby Learning Center, Lakeview Room)

<p>1:00 – 3:00 pm (Lakeview Room)</p>	<p>Invasive Species Cooties... Don't Share 'em! <i>Tom Alwin, Aquatic Biologist, Michigan DEQ</i></p> <p>Invasive species are like cooties on the playground... nobody wants them! A little decontamination can go a long way to stop the spread of cooties invasive species. Learn how to assess risk and the proper steps to take to make sure you're not spreading invasive species.</p>
<p>3:30 – 5:00 pm (Lakeview Room)</p>	<p>Developing Volunteer Leadership <i>Jason Frenzel, Stewardship Coordinator, Huron River Watershed Council</i></p> <p>Many of us struggle with retaining good volunteers, while also being plagued by a lack of staff time. Why not solve both at the same time? Led by Jason, and learning from your peers, we will discuss theory around developing volunteer leadership, review best practices in volunteer (and staff) management, and leave with specific actions to help increase our organizational capacity.</p>

5:30 – 6:30 pm **Dinner** (Main Lodge, Dining Room) – *Available for an additional fee. Please pay in advance.*

6:30 – 7:30 pm **Evening Presentation: Emerging Strategies for Freshwater Protection**

(Mawby Learning Center, Lakeview Room)

Rebecca Esselman, Watershed Planner, Huron River Watershed Council

The Huron River Watershed Council along with area partners are tackling two new threats to Michigan's rivers and lakes. Learn what impacts a changing climate has on freshwater systems and some strategies being implemented to build resilience into these systems. Also, a growing body of evidence is spurring action to avoid further contamination of rivers and lakes with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) from common pavement sealant products used throughout the state.

7:30 – 10:00 pm **Reception and Networking** (Main Lodge, Lobby and Deck)

The evening presentation will be followed by refreshments, conversation, and a bonfire at the lake (weather permitting). Participants are welcome to bring a favorite board game or group activity to share. Volunteer monitoring posters will also be on display.



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Thursday, November 9 (Conference)

7:30 am **Breakfast** (Main Lodge, Dining Room) – *Available for an additional fee. Please pay in advance.*

8:15 am **Conference Registration and Check-In** (Mawby Learning Center, Downstairs Lobby)

9:00 am **Welcoming Remarks and Introductions** (Mawby Learning Center, Lakeview Room)
Marcy Knoll Wilmes, Michigan DEQ

9:30 am **Morning Keynote: Inspiring Change with Data**
Matt Meersman, St. Joseph River Basin Commission

Getting people excited about clean water is only half the battle. They need to be involved in order to accomplish watershed goals. Although numbers and graphs alone can motivate some people, telling a compelling story with our data can inspire even more people to take action. Matt Meersman will talk about how he has used data to facilitate change among watershed stakeholders in his work.

10:30 am **Awards for New MiCorps Members and Long-Term Volunteer Recognition**
Presented by: Marcy Knoll Wilmes, Michigan DEQ, and Dr. Paul Steen, MiCorps Staff, Huron River Watershed Council

10:55 am **Break / Move into Breakout Sessions** (*Group Photo for Award Recipients*)

11:15 am **Breakout Session 1** (Breakout sessions A and B will be held concurrently.)

<p>Option A: (Main Lodge Lower Level, Ford Room)</p>	<p>MiCorps 101: An Introduction to the MiCorps Program <i>Marcy Knoll Wilmes, Michigan DEQ, with other MiCorps Staff</i></p> <p>This session is geared toward those who are new to MiCorps and volunteer monitoring, or those who would simply like a refresher. We will provide an overview of the program and how you can get involved.</p>
<p>Option B: (Mawby Learning Center, Lakeview Room)</p>	<p>Finding Financial Support After Your MiCorps Grant Ends <i>Moderator: Dr. Paul Steen, MiCorps Staff, Huron River Watershed Council</i></p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sally Petrella, Friends of the Rouge</i> • <i>Theresa Lark, Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council</i> <p>A panel of former MiCorps grant recipients discuss their experiences with identifying funding opportunities for supporting their ongoing monitoring work. Come hear about specific tips and strategies for success.</p>

**** Remember to vote for the afternoon networking session topics before you head to lunch! ****

12:00 pm **Lunch** (Main Lodge, Dining Room) – *Included in conference registration fee.*

1:00 pm **Breakout Session 2** (Breakout sessions A and B will be held concurrently.)

<p>Option A: (Main Lodge Lower Level, Ford Room)</p>	<p>MiCorps Macroinvertebrate and Road/Stream Crossing Monitoring Programs <i>Moderator: Dr. Paul Steen, MiCorps Staff, Huron River Watershed Council</i> <i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Heather Smith, The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay</i>• <i>Kayla Knoll, Manistee Conservation District</i>• <i>Carolyn Grace, St. Joseph County Conservation District</i> <p>MiCorps grantees will discuss their macroinvertebrate survey and road/stream crossing inventory volunteer stream monitoring programs: where they monitor, how their program runs, and the successes and lessons they have experienced along the way.</p>
<p>Option B: (Mawby Learning Center, Lakeview Room)</p>	<p>Using Citizen Science Data for Lake Water Quality Research to Inform Policy <i>Moderator: Dr. Jo Latimore, MiCorps Staff, Michigan State University</i> <i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Dr. Patricia Soranno, Michigan State University</i>• <i>Autumn Poisson, Michigan State University</i> <p>Ever wonder what happens to the data after you collect it and it gets put online? Ever wonder whether the data that you collect matters? [spoiler alert – it matters A LOT!] Ever wonder what the most common lake name is in the upper Midwest? If you have a burning desire to know the answers to these and many more questions, come to this session to hear from lake researchers about an effort to use citizen science data to conduct research in the thousands of lakes in Michigan and the tens of thousands of lakes in the Midwest and Northeastern US.</p>

2:00 pm **Break / Move Back into Lakeview Room (Mawby Learning Center)**

2:20 pm **Sharing Resources Around the State: A Networking Activity** (Mawby Learning Center, Lakeview Room)
Facilitated by MiCorps Staff

Building from the 2016 MiCorps Conference networking session, this networking activity will help to connect you with other conference participants to share experiences, resources, and expertise.

Notes from last year's networking activity will be posted in the Mawby Learning Center, Lakeview Room, ahead of this session. Make sure to vote on topics for us to discuss before 12 pm. Your votes will determine what topics we delve into during the networking session.

3:50 pm **Conference Wrap-Up and Evaluation**
Marcy Knoll Wilmes, Michigan DEQ

Please take a moment before you leave to complete the evaluation form provided in your meeting folder and leave it at the registration table on your way out. Thank you!

4:00 pm **Adjournment**