

Professional Development Committee Report for 2021

The Professional Development Committee is a permanent committee of the Michigan Chapter. Committee members: Jon Bartholic, Dan Busby, Katie Droscha, John Freeland, Kelly Goward, Tim Harrigan, Glenn O'Neil, Steven Schaub and Jerry Miller, chair. Chapter Secretary Dan Kesselring serves as a resource to the committee.

Committee activities during the year included coordinating multiple professional development events. Activities included:

1. Concurrent sessions during the virtual 2020 and 2021 Michigan Association of Conservation Districts annual conference coordinated by Katie Droscha and Jon Bartholic.
2. 2020 ANR Week seminar chaired by Tim Harrigan.
3. Concurrent sessions during the virtual 2021 Michigan Association of Conservation Districts summer conference coordinated by Katie Droscha.
4. The committee served as the chapter representative to the Maple River Regional Conservation Partnership Program led by the Institute of Water Research, Michigan State University. The chapter has committed \$200 for in-kind support.

A summary of select activities implemented by the Professional Development Committee include:

1. Presented two concurrent sessions during the December 14-17, 2020, virtual Michigan Association of Conservation Districts annual conference. The sessions were organized by Katie Droscha and Jon Bartholic.
 - a. Title: Engaging River Raisin Farmers in Sub-surface Water Monitoring Program: a look into applicability, efficacy, and need. Presented by Alaina Nunn, Institute of Water Research, Michigan State University.
 - b. Title: MSU Extension Manure Management Web-based Tools. Presenters were: Erica Roger, MSU Extension; Sarah Fronczak, MSU Extension; and Connor Crank, Institute of Water Research, MSU
2. The annual chapter Agriculture and Natural Resources Seminar was held virtual on March 2 and 3, 2021. The seminar theme was "A Systems Approach for the Future of Soil Health and Water Quality". Dr. Eileen J. Kladvko, Professor, Department of Agronomy, Purdue University, served as the keynote speaker. The program agenda and recording is posted at: <http://www.migslwcs.org/events-and-archives/>
3. Presented a concurrent session during the virtual Michigan Association of Conservation Districts Summer Conference held on June 7, 2021. The session title: Climate Change in the Great Lakes Region, presented by Dr. David Karowe, Western Michigan University
4. Organized and presented a concurrent session during the virtual 2021 Michigan Association of Conservation Districts annual conference. The 90-minute presentation occurred on November 10. The title of the session was Conservation Connections - examples of how to facilitate networking, partnerships, and innovative technologies to address and manage resource concerns. Presenters included: Connor Crank, Institute of Water Research, MSU; Kelly Goward,

Outdoor Discovery Center Net; Becky Huttenga, Ottawa County Department of Strategic Impact; and Paul Sachs, Ottawa County Department of Strategic Impact.

5. The committee fulfilled the chapter's Maple River Watershed match committed via the concurrent session during the November 2021 MACD annual conference and an interview of Katie Droscha for the Institute of Water Resources, MSU, newsletter.

Upcoming activities planned by the committee include:

1. The 2022 Agriculture and Natural Resources annual seminar scheduled for March 11. The seminar is being planned as an in-person event. Tim Harrigan chairs the planning committee for the annual seminar. Committee members are in process of identifying topics and speakers.
2. The committee will be available to assist Michigan Association of Conservation Districts for planning a presentation during their June 2022 Summer Conference and the 2022 Annual Conference of the association.
3. Virtual webinars are being discussed for each quarter (Apr – Jun and Jul – Sep).

Report submitted by Gerald Miller, Committee Chair