

Professional Development Committee Report for 2022

The Professional Development Committee is a permanent committee of the Michigan Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. Committee members are: Jon Bartholic, Dan Busby, Katie Droscha, 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. A concurrent session during the virtual 2021 Michigan Association of Conservation Districts annual conference coordinated by Katie Droscha and Jon Bartholic.
2. 2022 ANR Week Seminar chaired by Tim Harrigan.
3. A concurrent session during the in person 2022 MACD 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. Organized and presented a concurrent session during the virtual 2021 Michigan Association of Conservation Districts annual conference. The 90-minute virtual presentation occurred on November 10, 2021. 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.
2. The annual chapter Agriculture and Natural Resources Seminar was held on March 11, 2022. The Seminar theme was: Sustainable Intensification of the Rural Landscape: Protecting Soil Health, Water Quality and Farm Profitability. The keynote speaker was Dr. Stephen Gasteyer, Michigan State University. His title was "Engaging Local Knowledge: Farmers and Community Involvement in Watershed Management". The agenda for the Seminar is posted at <https://www.miglswcs.org/app/download/7126775896/2022+SWCS+ANR+Seminar+Agenda+v6>
3. Presented a concurrent session during the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts Summer Conference held on June 7, 2022. Chad Kotke, Great Lakes Stream Restoration Specialist at Trout Unlimited, presented the session title: Case Studies in 2-Stage Ditch Restoration – Bringing economics, land conservation and production, and the environment together for success.
4. 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. Webinar scheduled for December 16, 2022, presented by Dr. Jeremiah Asher, Assistant Director, Institute of Water Research, Michigan State University. The webinar title is “Edge-of-field monitoring for tillage management impacts on water quality and quantity in St. Johns, Michigan”.
2. The 2023 Agriculture and Natural Resources Annual Seminar scheduled for March 10. 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.
3. The committee will be available to assist Michigan Association of Conservation Districts for a presentation during their June 2023 Summer Conference and the 2023 Annual Conference of the association.
4. Virtual webinars are being discussed for each quarter (Apr – Jun and Jul – Sep).

Report submitted by Gerald Miller, Committee Chair