

Bios

<p>Michael J. Pikaart, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Hope College</p>	<p>Dr. Pikaart holds a BS in chemistry from Calvin College and a PhD in biochemistry from the University of Michigan. After working in gene regulation research at the National Institutes of Health, he came to Hope College in 1999 where he teaching introductory chemistry and biochemistry. He promotes curriculum development and learning strategies in biochemistry as part of the BASIL collaborative and, with colleagues in the Global Water Research Institute at Hope College and Dordt University, studies water improvement monitoring both locally and worldwide.</p>
<p>Aaron Best, PhD, Chair, Biology Department, Hope College</p>	
<p>Richard R. Rediske, PhD, Professor, Water Resources, Grand Valley State University Annis Water Resources Institute</p>	
<p>Maggie Oudsema, Research Assistant, Grand Valley State University Annis Water Resources Institute</p>	<p>Maggie Oudsema is a Research Assistant in Dr. Al Steinman’s lab at the Annis Water Resources Institute, where she serves as the lead field technician. Maggie received her B.S. from GVSU Biology with an aquatic science emphasis, and is currently pursuing her M.S. degree part-time in the lab of Dr. Carl Ruetz at AWRI. Maggie is interested in broader applications of science to address real world problems within aquatic ecosystems.</p>
<p>Dr. Alan Steinman, Director of Grand Valley State University Annis Water Resources Institute</p>	<p>Alan (Al) Steinman is the Allen and Helen Hunting Director of Grand Valley State University’s Annis Water Resources Institute, a position he has held since 2001. Previously, he was Director of the Lake Okeechobee Restoration Program at the South Florida Water Management District. Steinman has published over 180 scientific articles, book chapters, and books; has been awarded over \$60 million in grants for scientific and engineering projects; and has testified before the U.S. Congress and the Michigan and Florida state legislatures.</p>
<p>Kelly Goward, Environmental Program Manager, Macatawa Area Coordinating Council</p>	<p>Kelly Goward is the Macatawa Environmental Program Manager for the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council (MACC) in Holland, MI. Kelly oversees implementation of the Macatawa Watershed Management Plan which includes writing grants, planning for best management practice implementation, conducting public education and outreach programs, and coordinating volunteer activities. She also provides assistance to the local urbanized communities in developing and implementing Storm Water Management Plans. Kelly holds a B.S. in</p>

	Biology from Grand Valley State University and an M.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Management from Ball State University.
Melanie Manion, Natural Resources Manager, Ottawa County Parks	Melanie Manion is the Natural Resources Manager for Ottawa County Parks in Michigan. She is responsible for the stewardship and restoration of over 6000 acres of park and open space land, in addition to the development of a comprehensive volunteer program. Previously, Manion worked for the Land Conservancy of West Michigan and Blandford Nature Center. She has a B.S. in Biology and Environmental Science and a M.S. in Conservation Biology from Central Michigan University.
Paul Sachs, Director, Department of Planning and Performance Improvement	Paul Sachs is Director of Planning and Performance Improvement for Ottawa County, MI where he is responsible for implementing innovative, pragmatic solutions that positively impact quality of life and economic growth in the County. A Michigan native, Paul was born and raised in Royal Oak, MI, attended Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo (B.S. Earth Sciences '98). Paul previously worked as a Researcher for the Federal Highway Administration's Research and Technology Center in McLean, Virginia (1998) and as a Planning Analyst for Michael Baker Engineering under contract with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in Washington D.C (2001).
Nathan Wiechel, Science Teacher, Allendale Christian Middle School	Nathan Wiechel graduated from Calvin College with a B.A. in elementary education in 2002. The following year he worked throughout Ottawa and Kent Counties as a substitute teacher. Following that experience Nathan taught fourth grade at Allendale Christian for four years. He is now the middle school science teacher, and the 7th grade homeroom and Bible teacher. Nathan has also been the athletic director of Allendale Christian's middle school athletics program for a number of years. In the summer of 2013 he completed his masters work in Educational Leadership at Grand Valley State University. In addition to graduate work, Nathan has taken part in training through Teaching for Transformation and the Ottawa Area ISD to learn more about how to provide students with rich learning experiences that impact the Allendale community. Nathan connected with Ottawa County's Planning Department in Fall 2019 to serve as a community partner in helping to develop replicable programming for area middle school students regarding Ottawa County's unique groundwater sustainability challenges

<p>Donald Carpenter, Vice President, Drummond Carpenter, PLLC</p>	<p>Donald D. Carpenter is professional engineer and accredited green design professional whose expertise includes green stormwater infrastructure (GSI), stormwater best management practices (BMPs), hydrologic modeling and design, and community engagement. Dr. Carpenter's has 25+ years' experience working with diverse clients across the United States as a researcher and practicing professional. His efforts have focused on researching innovative stormwater management practices and designing GSI retrofits for non-profit organizations and local municipalities. As an NCI Certified Charrette Facilitator, he has extensive experience in community engagement and planning. His efforts have facilitated community implementation of GSI and the development of community socio-economic sustainability plans. Dr. Carpenter routinely provides professional lectures and short courses on stormwater design and GSI implementation. Professionally, Dr. Carpenter is an active leader and board member for several regional committees and non-profit organizations dedicated to improving water quality and citizen quality of life.</p>
<p>Sarah U'Ren, Program Director, The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay</p>	<p>Sarah U'Ren has served as the Program Director for The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay (TWC) since 2002. She is responsible for overseeing and coordinating all watershed projects and grant activities at TWC and has 20 years of experience in watershed project and grant management, research, and fieldwork. She authored the Grand Traverse Bay Watershed Protection Plan, specializes in beach and stormwater management and stormwater related restoration activities, and has overseen more than 70 grant funded projects in her tenure at TWC. Sarah earned a bachelor's degree in Biology from Alma College and a master's degree in Environmental Science from the University of Maryland.</p>
<p>Curtis TerHaar, Coordinator of Park Planning and Development, Ottawa County Parks</p>	<p>Curt TerHaar is a licensed landscape architect and land planner with over 30 years of experience in the planning, design, and construction of outdoor public spaces. After working in the private sector and as a solo practitioner, he has been employed as the Coordinator of Park Planning & Development at Ottawa County Parks since 2005.</p>
<p>Drew Shaw, REHS, Senior Environmental Health Specialist, Ottawa County Department of Public Health</p>	

<p>Theo VanAken, PE – Holland Area Water Reclamation Facility Superintendent</p>	<p>Theo attended Michigan State University, graduating with B.S. in Biosystems Engineering. Throughout his career, Theo has worked with large agricultural operations, commercial food processors and municipalities in treating and managing their waste. Theo has worked at the Holland BPW since 2012, starting as a project engineer/manager. Since 2018 Theo has been the superintendent of the Holland Area Water Reclamation Facility, a 12 MGD (million gallons per day) average daily capacity high purity oxygen activated sludge wastewater treatment plant.</p>
<p>Erick Elgin, Ecologist and Water Resources Educator, Michigan State University Extension</p>	<p>Erick Elgin is an aquatic ecologist and water resources educator with Michigan State University Extension. He promotes and researches the wise use, protection, and restoration of our freshwater systems. Erick's recent efforts focus on aquatic plants, lake ecology, natural shorelines, invasive species, citizen science and improving the knowledge of decision makers to make sound water management decisions. Erick has a M.S. in aquatic ecology from the University of Calgary and a B.S. in natural resources management and water resources management from the University of Minnesota.</p>
<p>Dr. Daniel O'Keefe, Michigan Sea Grant, Michigan State University</p>	<p>Dr. Dan O'Keefe attained his B.S. from Michigan State University, M.S. from Central Michigan University and Ph.D. from Mississippi State University. He works with coastal communities and businesses in southwest Michigan to apply science-based knowledge to address Great Lakes and southern Lake Michigan issues. The southwest district serves Mason, Oceana, Muskegon, Ottawa, Allegan, Van Buren, and Berrien counties. Dr. Dan O'Keefe assists Great Lakes charter boat, recreational, and commercial fishing industries in adapting to changing environmental, economic, and sociopolitical conditions; promotes understanding of connections between watersheds, rivers, drowned river mouth lakes, and Lake Michigan to highlight impacts of inland communities on Great Lakes fisheries; and works toward development of emerging fisheries, fishing methods, and seafood products.</p>