

# Michigan Septic Summit

## Protecting Fresh Water from Septic System Pollution

10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 6, 2019  
Hagerty Conference Center, Traverse City, MI

### SPONSORS:



League of Women Voters Grand Traverse Area



### Promoted by:

***Au Sable Institute, Clean Water Action, Leelanau Clean Water, Michigan Resource Stewards, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay***

**Cost:** \$25 in advance per person, includes lunch; \$30 at the door.

**To Register Visit:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/michigan-septic-summit-tickets-73296990271>

**Questions?** Contact FLOW at 231-944-1568 or [info@FLOWforWater.org](mailto:info@FLOWforWater.org).

### **Purpose of this Summit**

- To learn about recent and emerging research on the human health and environmental risks presented by old and failing septic systems found in Northern Lower Michigan and elsewhere across the state.
- To characterize local and regional programs and regulations adopted in response to the surface water and groundwater quality threats posed by old and failing septic systems.
- To foster continued dialogue toward more effective and geographically extensive efforts to reduce risks to human health and the environment posed by old and failing septic systems in Michigan.

### **Targeted Outcomes**

- Greater recognition and understanding of the risks posed by old and failing septic systems to surface water and groundwater quality and the related risks to human health.
- Better understanding of local, regional and state options for enhancing controls over the risks posed by septic systems together with increasing momentum for adopting risk control measures across Michigan.
- To offer options and models for local action.

## **FINAL AGENDA**

- 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. Registrations & Open Dialogue**
- 10:00 – 10:10 a.m. Introductions & Setting the Stage**  
Liz Kirkwood, Executive Director, FLOW  
Dr. Joe VanderMeulen, Publisher, Nature Change
- 10:10 – 10:30 a.m. Basics: Construction & Maintenance of Septic Systems (Old & New)**  
Scott Kendzierski, Dir. Env. Health Services, Health Dept. of Northwest MI
- 10:30 – 11:15 a.m. Risks to Human Health & the Environment**  
Dr. Mark Borchardt, Microbiologist/Researcher  
USDA Agriculture Research Service, Marshfield, WI
- 11:25 – 11:45 a.m. Responding to Old & Failing Septic Systems in Mid-Michigan**  
Jon Beard, Senior Consultant, Public Sector Consultants
- 11:45 – 12:30 p.m. Panel: Local Efforts to Control Risks**  
Eric Johnston, Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department  
Seth Phillips, Manistee Lake Association & Kalkaska Co. Drain Commissioner  
Grenetta Thomassey, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council (invited)  
Matt Allen, Onsite Service Supervisor, Ottawa County Dept. of Public Health  
Toni Morrison, Real Estate One, Elk Rapids
- 12:30 – 1:45 p.m. LUNCH – with Two Presentations**  
**Enteric Bacteria, Source Tracking & Emerging Techniques**  
Rob Karner, Watershed Biologist, Glen Lakes Association  
**Kawkawlin River Watershed Septic System Mapping & Outreach Program**  
Joel Kwiatkowski, Env. Health Mng., Bay County Health Department
- 2:00 – 2:45 p.m. Panel – Public Policy Options**  
Eric Johnston, Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department  
Sean McBrearty, Clean Water Action  
Leslie Sickterman, Planning Dir., Long Lake Township  
George Bailey, Chair, Gratiot County Commission  
Rick Stein, Re/Max Bayshore Real Estate
- 3:00 – 3:45 p.m. Panel – Where Do We Go from Here**  
Jon Beard, Senior Consultant, Public Sector Consultants  
Tom Zimnicki, Michigan Environmental Council  
Christine Crissman, Exec. Dir., Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay  
Grenetta Thomassey, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council (invited)  
Liz Kirkwood, Exec. Dir., FLOW
- 3:45 – 4:00 p.m. Closing Remarks**  
Dave Dempsey, Senior Advisor, FLOW