

# PIPELINE

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONERS  
MANAGING MICHIGAN'S WATER RESOURCES SINCE 1899

**MI PA 233: RENEWABLE ENERGY  
SITING UPDATES**

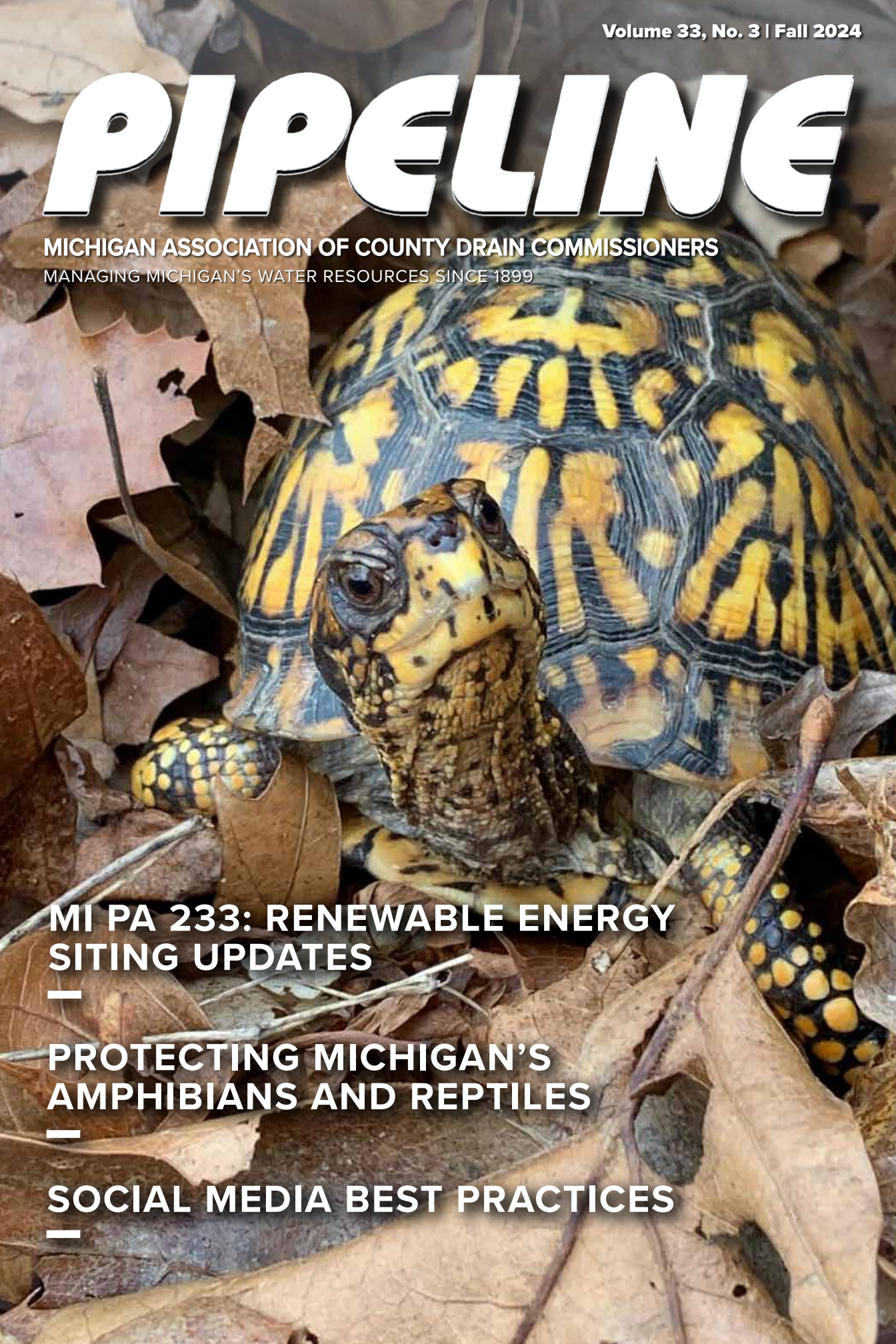
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**PROTECTING MICHIGAN'S  
AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES**

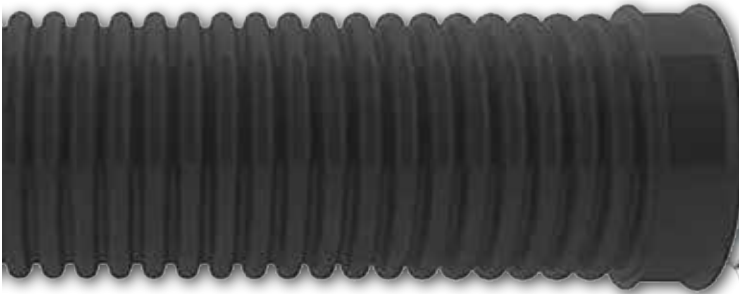
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**SOCIAL MEDIA BEST PRACTICES**

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**EVAN PRATT, PE**  
**Washtenaw County**  
**Water Resources Commissioner**



I trust you've all had an interesting summer so far!! Hoping some of the 'interesting' is in your personal life, whether that is travel, a graduation (or two), birthday, or some other family milestone.

In most of my columns I've included a strong nod to the notion that a Commissioner is pretty reliant on a lot of other people – people like you – to advance a vision of what the office should be and do. Regardless of how many miles of infrastructure or number of staff in an office, I hear this over and over from Commissioners.

As I write this, I'm preparing to attend the funeral of an old friend – Murph drove me to my first rugby game and showed me a thing or two – I had never played before or even been to a practice. I'm thinking about how important it is to be thankful for all the support we have gotten in our personal life. From friends, family, and all the other people who care about us.

So, I hope some of your 'interesting' this summer has been with that part of your life. Our work can be emotionally draining and all the peer-reviewed stuff out there says that our personal life is what recharges our emotional batteries. Work achievements feel great, but are sometimes a bit of an outlier in our hectic days, weeks, and months of playing Whac-a-Mole.

Yep, I took a day off from work to recharge the batteries. I wanted to write to make sure you do more than take those opportunities to stay connected with your personal life. We need to make those opportunities too – maybe a lunch with your spouse or even a quick text to thank a sibling or other family member for just being who they are.

Then back to what you do and juggling all the curve balls that come your way at work and home! I'm thankful to be part of a group that is so well centered on caring about their teams and families.

*~Evan*

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# PUBLIC ACT 233

## Michigan's Renewable Energy Siting Legislation Update

**By: Ross Bower, Samantha Reetz, and Sophia Youssif, Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes, PLC**

On November 28, 2023, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed House Bill 5120, now PA 233 of 2023. This legislation marks significant changes to the permitting process for utility-scale wind, solar, and energy storage facilities. The new law goes into effect on November 29, 2024, and it grants new permitting authority to the Michigan Public Service Commission (“MPSC”) to directly issue certificates for renewables projects under specific conditions. Through its Renewable Energy Committee, MACDC has been working with the MPSC providing comments and concerns on how PA 233 will impact drains and drainage infrastructure throughout the state. Under PA 233, developers have the option to go directly to the MPSC for a certificate, rather than through local zoning committees. However, local governments have the option of adopting a Compatible Renewable Energy Ordinance (“CREO”). A CREO is an ordinance that provides for the development of utility-scale energy facilities within the local unit of government.<sup>1</sup> In communities where a CREO has been adopted, the developer must have its proposed project reviewed at the local level. For communities seeking to adopt a CREO, PA 233 makes it clear that that the regulations cannot be more restrictive than the provisions outlined in Section 226(8) of the Act.<sup>2</sup>

PA 233 is not exclusively for new construction; it also covers the expansion and repowering of existing facilities.<sup>3</sup> Section 222(1) of PA 233 clarifies that the new permitting process applies to (a) any solar energy facility with a nameplate capacity of 50 megawatts or more (b) any wind energy facility with a nameplate capacity of 100 megawatts or more, and (c) any energy storage facility with a nameplate capacity of 50 megawatts or more and an energy discharge capability of 200 megawatts hours or more.

Under PA 233, an application should be filed with the MPSC when:

1. A local unit of government requests the Commission to require an electric provider or independent power producer to file an application for a certificate with the Commission under Section 2 when a local unit of government does not have a CREO;
2. When a local unit of government fails to approve or deny the request in a timely manner;
3. When a local unit of government denies an application that complies with the requirements of Section 226 of PA 233; or
4. When a local unit of government amends its zoning ordinance after notice of a CREO and the amendment imposes additional requirements on the development of energy facilities that are more restrictive than those in Section 226(8) of PA 233.

Under this new legislation, the process set forth by the MPSC generally begins with a developer meeting with each chief elected officer followed by a public meeting. The developer then files an application with the MPSC where the applicant must provide notice of the opportunity to provide comment (Sec. 226(2)). After 60 days, the MPSC determines whether the application is complete (Sec. 225(2)). Finally, the MPSC approves or denies the application within one year (Sec. 226(5)).

Dan Scripps, the MPSC Chair, stated that the Commission will consider several factors when deciding which projects to approve, such as how easily a project can connect to the grid, the impact on farmland, and the availability of land. Many maintain that PA 233 is essentially intended to preempt local zoning and regulation of wind and solar projects, instead allowing for state certification. However, Scripps has reasoned that,



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“I think we’re all hopeful that the process at the local level can work. But again, for those projects of statewide significance that are important in terms of how we maintain reliability and keep energy affordable, that ultimately there is a state process that would start in November of this year if things get bogged down.”<sup>4</sup> Scripps also stated that in certain circumstances, PA 233 allows governments and neighboring landowners to participate in cases brought before the commission.

PA 233 is facing criticism for giving the MPSC superseding authority over local zoning ordinances.<sup>5</sup> The law states that the developer must go through the local process if the chief elected official in each affected local unit of government notifies the developer that there’s a CREO. Affected local units of government are defined as “a county, township, city, or village” so PA 233 impacts not only projects that cross township lines, but also projects within a single township. Townships have the option of either letting projects go to the MPSC or adopting a CREO to safeguard the authority of local governments and their zoning ordinances (assuming they are not more restrictive than those set forth in PA 233).

When considering its impacts on the ground, the MPSC has publicly stated that Commission approval of a siting certificate under PA 233 does not confer the power of eminent domain or require landowners to participate against their wishes.<sup>6</sup>

The MACDC Renewable Energy Committee has been working with the MPSC to spread awareness of the impacts renewable energy projects have on drains and drain infrastructure, and to implement a process for drain and storm water approvals. Sec. 225(1)(p) of PA 233 requires “[a] stormwater assessment and a plan to minimize, mitigate, and repair any drainage impacts at the expense

## PA 233 CONT.

of the electric provider or IPP. The applicant shall make reasonable efforts to consult with the county drain commissioner before submitting the application and shall include evidence of those efforts in its application.” The MACDC’s Renewable Energy Committee’s goal is to coordinate the development of renewable energy to be compatible with stormwater and drainage infrastructure.

Most relevant to Drain Commissioners, the current MPSC draft Application Instructions and Procedures include:

- ▶ A stormwater assessment and a plan to minimize, mitigate, and repair any drainage impacts and any additional guidance received during a consultation with the county drain commissioner. The assessment and plan may be preliminary. At a minimum, the date and time the consultation took place, who participated in the consultation, and copies of correspondence listing necessary permits, next steps, and associated timeline should be provided for each consultation.
- ▶ Site plan showing drainage, including county and intercounty drains.
- ▶ Justification for how the proposed project location, layout, construction methods, etc. minimize impacts to county and intercounty drains, and preliminary plans to minimize, mitigate and repair drainage issues.
- ▶ Locations of known existing and proposed county and intercounty drains, drain easements, and underground drainage tile including data provided by the county drain commissioner.
- ▶ An agreement to repair or replace all public and private drainage systems, damaged from construction or decommissioning processes including county or intercounty drains.
- ▶ Approval contingent upon receiving approval for all necessary applicable state, federal, and local permits and all permits need to be obtained before beginning construction on the portion of the project for which the permit is necessary.


Following the public comment period through August 9th, the MPSC will issue an Order adopting Application Instructions and Guidance before the new law goes into effect November 29, 2024. Additional updates on the MPSC process, next steps, the meetings and presentations that have taken place, and links to additional resources on this important legislation are available here:

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/PA\\_233](https://bit.ly/pa_233)



### Sources

1. Michigan Township Insights, MTA Sample CREO Now Available, August 1, 2024.
2. Id.
3. Graham Sustainability Institute at the University of Michigan, Michigan’s New Renewable Energy Siting Law, Overview of PA 233.
4. Michigan Advance, As some push for repeal, state seeks input on renewable energy siting law, February 20, 2024.
5. Michigan Association of County Drain Commissioners, Legislative Update, Volume 13, Issue 4. Winter 2024.
6. Michigan Public Service Commission, Renewable Energy and Energy Storage Facility Siting, <https://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/commission/workgroups/2023-energy-legislation/renewable-energy-and-energy-storage-facility-siting>.



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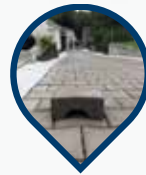
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# 2025 MACDC

## Innovation & Excellence Awards

Project submittals now open!

**Pre-application Entry Form must be received by 5:00 PM, November 1, 2024**

**Complete applications are due by 5:00 PM, December 1, 2024**

**Application is available at <https://macdc.us/awards>**

### Awards Program | Rules and Procedures

#### Purpose and Goals

This Awards Program aims to:

- Recognize creative and innovative accomplishments of all scopes, sizes, and budgets, of Members and Associate Members of the Michigan Association of County Drain Commissioners (MACDC).
- Promote public awareness of the activities and contributions of MACDC, its Members and Associate Members.

#### Eligibility

Any MACDC Member or Associate Member may enter this Awards Program. Drain Commissioner(s) and/or Associate Member(s) may submit projects jointly or separately. Associate Members submitting separately must obtain the signature of the Drain Commissioner of record on their Entry Form.

#### Award Categories

MACDC's panel of judges will review submittals. Two projects will receive an *Innovation and Excellence* award. MACDC will provide one award for each winning project; recipients may purchase additional copies of the award. MACDC may also award Honorable Mention certificates to a maximum of two projects.

#### General Criteria

1. All entries must be submitted in accordance with the rules outlined in this document.
2. The project must have been conducted under the direct authority of the Drain Commissioner or through a Board of which the Drain Commissioner is a member.
3. A Member or Associate Member may enter as many qualified projects as they wish.
4. Projects that have received awards from other organizations may be entered.
5. Projects must have been completed and in use between April 1, 2022 and December 31, 2024.
6. Entries must comply with Submission Guidelines section of this document. Failure to comply may disqualify an entry. Please read the Guidelines thoroughly.
7. MACDC Awards Committee reserves the right to determine entry eligibility.
8. MACDC Awards Committee determines the Award Category based on submitted information.

#### Judges and Judging Criteria

The MACDC Awards Committee will evaluate entries based on the work completed by the entering organization(s). Finalists and winners are selected based on overall project excellence. Judges will evaluate and compare projects based on the following.

#### Judging Criteria (*in no particular order*):

1. Public involvement and education
2. Environmental and water quality benefits
3. Use of new materials  
(including improving/finding new uses of existing materials)
4. Use of new technologies  
(product/method/tool to solve problem)
5. Innovation
6. Complexity
7. Cost effectiveness

***Note: Projects need not contain all seven of the above criteria. However, the more criteria that a project effectively encompasses, the greater consideration it will be given.***

***\*Electronic submissions are preferred\*\****

Email Entry Form and Final Application packet to: [admin@macdc.us](mailto:admin@macdc.us)

#### Questions?

Contact MACDC at **517-484-9761**  
or [admin@macdc.us](mailto:admin@macdc.us)





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# MICHIGAN'S HIDDEN GEMS:

## Protecting Amphibians, Reptiles, and the Future of our Ecosystems

By: David A. Mifsud, CSE, PWS, CWB, Senior Herpetologist, Herpetological Resource And Management

Michigan boasts a hidden gem – a diverse community of amphibians and reptiles (regionally referred to as herpetofauna) vital to Michigan's ecological health. We will explore the world of Michigan's herpetofauna, their importance, the challenges they face, and how we can ensure their survival.

### A RICH TAPESTRY OF HERPETOFAUNA

Michigan is home to nearly 60 species of herpetofauna, including 18 snakes, 11 turtles, 2 lizard species, and 14 frog and 14 salamander species with more species likely not yet known! These creatures aren't just fascinating; they play a critical role in keeping our ecosystems balanced.

### WHY HERPETOFAUNA MATTER

Amphibians and reptiles act as environmental sentinels, their presence, distribution, and age classes reflecting the overall health of their habitat. They occupy the middle ground in the food web, preying on insects and other invertebrates (including mosquitos and their larvae), keeping their populations in check. A healthy and diverse population of herpetofauna is a strong indicator of a thriving ecosystem. They also are known to consume exotic and invasive species, helping to mitigate their spread.

Many Michigan species of herpetofauna depend on wetlands for breeding and survival. Their complex life cycles often involve both aquatic and terrestrial environments, requiring a network of interconnected habitats for their long-term viability. These habitats must also provide specific features for their different life stages. For example, some salamanders require logs and leaf litter for

cover, nesting, and hibernation, while basking logs and rocks are crucial for thermoregulation in reptiles.

### SAFEGUARDING MICHIGAN'S AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

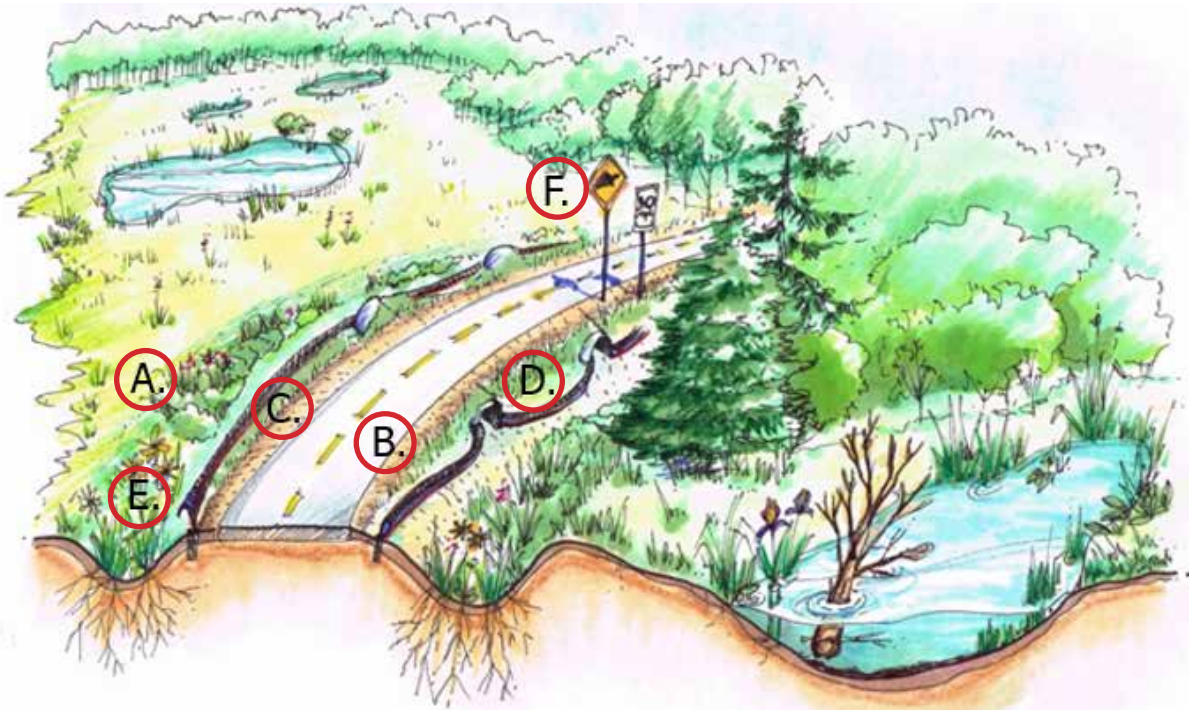
The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) enforces regulations through the Wildlife and Fisheries divisions. These regulations include size limits, take methods (hunting, trapping), and protected species lists. A special permit is required to handle or collect any species designated as "Special Concern" or "Threatened" or "Endangered." These include the Mudpuppy, Eastern Box Turtle, and the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake, respectively.

The Federal Endangered Species Act also plays a role, protecting federally listed species and their habitats on both public and private lands.

### FEDERAL ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973 (ESA)

Administered through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Protects listed species from "take" and provides protection for any critical habitats of listed species on public and private lands (currently no critical habitats designated in Michigan). Also mandates that a recovery plan for each Endangered and Threatened species be created and that post-recovery monitoring be conducted for de-listed species. Michigan herpetofauna species included on the ESA list include the Copper-bellied Water Snake and the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake.

**MICHIGAN AMPHIBIAN & REPTILE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**



- A. *Vegetation planted buffers to block salt spray and other pollutants.*
- B. *No mow zone along the shoulder in the spring during turtle nesting season*
- C. *No curb and gutter system to trap amphibians and reptiles on the road*
- D. *Road crossing structures maintain connectivity between herpetofauna habitat*
- E. *Permanent/Semi Permanent wildlife barrier directs animals toward crossing structures*
- F. *Wildlife crossing signs and lower speed limits at kill zones raise driver awareness and reduce road mortality*

*Illustration Credit: Michigan Amphibian & Reptile Best Management Practices, Second Edition, Herpetological Resource and Management*

**CHALLENGES ON THE HORIZON**

Despite these safeguards, Michigan's herpetofauna face significant threats. Habitat loss and fragmentation due to development are major concerns. Roads become deadly barriers, with estimates suggesting a significant portion of road mortality is preventable. Invasive species disrupt the delicate balance of the ecosystem, outcompeting native herpetofauna for resources. Pollution from stormwater runoff and agricultural practices further jeopardizes their health. Yet, there is hope in the form of Best Management Practices or BMPs to minimize harm and threat. We can also help by contributing observations of amphibians and reptiles.

**BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE: SOLUTIONS AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

**Maintaining Connectivity:** Building wildlife corridors and underpasses beneath roads allows safe movement between habitats, reducing road mortality. These corridors should mimic the natural environment, incorporating native vegetation and minimizing noise pollution.

**Smart Infrastructure Design:** When building roads and developments, consider the impact on wildlife movement. Utilize wildlife crossing structures like culverts and bridges designed specifically for herpetofauna. These structures should be numerous, oversized to accommodate larger species, and placed strategically based on existing movement patterns.

**Silt Fences and Invasive Removal:** During construction projects, silt fences can be used to prevent soil erosion from entering waterways,



*A Fox Snake caught in soil erosion mesh.*

which can harm amphibian eggs and aquatic salamanders. Removing these items after construction is critical to restore connectivity. Following construction, invasive species removal efforts can help restore the natural balance of the ecosystem.

**Soil Erosion Fabric:** Photodegrading soil erosion material has been shown to harm and kill, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and small mammals. The product breaks down in presence of sunlight. Often however, these products only partially decompose, and wildlife get entangled in them. Use of natural fiber materials are comparable in price and are wildlife friendly.

**Water Level Management:** For projects near wetlands, drawdown of lake levels before hibernation and refilling after herpetofauna emerge from hibernation minimizes mortality. Considering placement of wildlife barrier fencing adjacent to roads can prevent animals migrating from aquatic habitats from being hit.

**Curb Design:** Traditional curbs with deep channels can trap amphibians and reptiles. "Cape Cod" style curbs offer a sloped design, allowing them to escape back to their habitat.

**Habitat Creation and Enhancement:** Restoring wetlands, creating nesting sites for turtles and frogs, and providing logs and basking areas are essential for herpetofauna survival. Nesting sites for turtles can be created by providing sandy banks and sandbars. Hibernacula creation involves creating suitable overwintering sites with a combination of logs, rocks, and leaf litter.

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MICHIGAN'S DRAIN EXPERTS

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## HERPETOFAUNA CONT.

### THE MICHIGAN HERP ATLAS: CITIZEN SCIENCE IN ACTION

This citizen science program empowers everyone to contribute to conservation efforts. By submitting data on amphibian and reptile sightings, you become a valuable resource in protecting these vital creatures. The data collected through the Michigan Herp Atlas helps researchers understand population trends, identify critical habitat areas, and evaluate the effectiveness of conservation efforts.

#### WE NEED YOUR OBSERVATIONS!

- Dead or alive
- Past or present
- Commonly observed and rare
- All seasons
- Photo document if possible
- Online entry OR data cards still available
- Email is always accepted!

#### HOW DATA IS USED

- Implement impact minimization and avoidance.
- Determining potential impacts to wetland systems.
- Identify locations of vernal pools or other critical habitat.
- Evaluate potential wetland mitigation or restoration sites.
- Data is key to any effective conservation effort or management plan.
- Integrating data into analyses can:
  - Determine important ecological hotspots and potential corridors.
  - Identify locations of data gaps and population declines.
  - Help evaluate the response of invasive species control.
  - Provide innovative tools for assessing wetland condition and health.

**Contact:**

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**www.HerpRMan.com**

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### EXAMPLES OF MICHIGAN'S RICH HERPETOFAUNA



*Blanding's Turtle*



*Red-spotted Newt juvenile*



*Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake*

## STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATION OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

### Fisheries Division Order 224.16

Sets limits and regulations regarding take methods, acceptable species, seasons, minimum size, daily possession limit, and total possession limit.

An all-species fishing license is required to take non-protected amphibians and reptiles and take must abide by the limitations outlined by the Michigan DNR in the Michigan Fishing Guide.


Under this order, all herpetofauna designated as Special Concern in Michigan are listed as “no take” without possession of a Scientific Collectors Permit.

- Northern Mudpuppy
- Northern Dusky Salamander
- Southern Two-lined Salander
- Fowler’s Toad
- Pickerel Frog
- Blanding’s Turtle
- Queen Snake
- Butler’s Garter Snake
- Eastern Smooth Green Snake
- Black Rat Snake


### Michigan Endangered Species Act, Part 365 of 1994 PA 451

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- Wood Turtle Eastern
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- Copper-bellied Water Snake
- Kirtland’s Snake
- Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake
- Six-lined Racerunner Blanchard’s
- Cricket Frog
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- Marbled Salamander
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# MASTERING SOCIAL MEDIA:

## Management vs. Best Practices

By: Trisha Bruzek, Marketing and Communications Officer, Oakland County Water Resources

Social media is a powerful tool for businesses, but navigating it effectively requires both strong management skills and an understanding of best practices. Let's break down the key differences between these two concepts and equip you with the knowledge to create a winning social media strategy.

### MANAGEMENT: THE NUTS AND BOLTS

Think of management as the day-to-day execution of your social media strategy. Here's what goes into effective management:

**Creating Engaging Content:** This involves understanding your target audience, crafting posts with a clear goal, and using visuals like photos and videos to grab attention. Don't forget to include a call to action (CTA) and tag relevant people!

**Scheduling for Success:** Planning your posts in advance is crucial. Utilize tools like Meta

Business Suite (for Facebook and Instagram) or Hootsuite to schedule posts and ensure consistency. Posting during peak times when your audience is most active is also important. Track results and experiment with different schedules to find the sweet spot.



Bruzek

**Analyzing Performance:** Regularly monitor your posts' reach, impressions, engagement, and clicks. This data helps you understand what resonates with your audience and allows you to adjust your content strategy accordingly.

### BEST PRACTICES: THE GUIDING LIGHT

Best practices are the established guidelines that help you achieve your social media goals. Here's how to leverage them:

## Scheduling for Success

#### Plan Ahead

Create a content calendar to schedule posts in advance

#### Automate with Care

Use scheduling tools, but monitor and adjust as needed

#### Engage Your Audience

Respond to comments and messages in a timely manner

#### Analyze and Optimize

Review performance data to identify best posting times and days

#### Diversify Content

Include a mix of text, images, videos, and interactive posts

#### Stay Flexible

Be prepared to adjust your schedule based on current events and trends

## SOCIAL MEDIA CONT.

**Building Relationships:** Social media is a two-way street. Get active, respond to comments and messages, and participate in conversations. Establish clear rules of engagement, such as a 24-hour response window.

**Crafting a Winning Strategy:** Define your brand identity, mission, and values. Use social media to boost awareness of your services, build trust, and turn followers into advocates who spread positive word-of-mouth.

**Driving Website Traffic:** Social media is a great platform to showcase your website. Share educational content, use clear CTAs, and shorten URLs to make it easy for people to visit your site. Pin important posts to keep them visible for longer.

## BEYOND THE BASICS: ESSENTIAL CONSIDERATIONS

**Crisis Management:** Be prepared for the unexpected! Have a crisis communication plan in place and update it regularly. Understand your role, communication channels, and approval process. Respond quickly and with facts, prioritizing transparency.

**Field Crew Engagement:** Build relationships with your field crews and gain supervisor support. Capture their unique perspectives and behind-the-scenes experiences to create engaging content. Always prioritize safety by ensuring proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

**Diversity and Inclusion:** Embrace diversity of thought and experiences. Use inclusive language, show representation in your content, and promote leadership opportunities for all. Check your biases, listen to learn, and craft mindful messaging.

**Accessibility:** Make your content accessible to everyone. Utilize alt text for images, provide captions for videos, and offer voiceover options when possible. This not only promotes inclusivity but also fulfills legal requirements.

Social media success is a continuous process. By combining effective management with a strong foundation in best practices, you can create a winning social media strategy. Remember, the key is to embrace change, learn from your data, and adapt your approach over time. Start today and watch your social media presence flourish!



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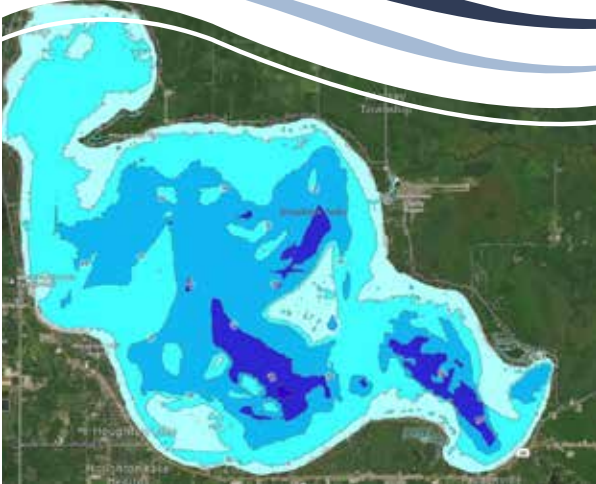


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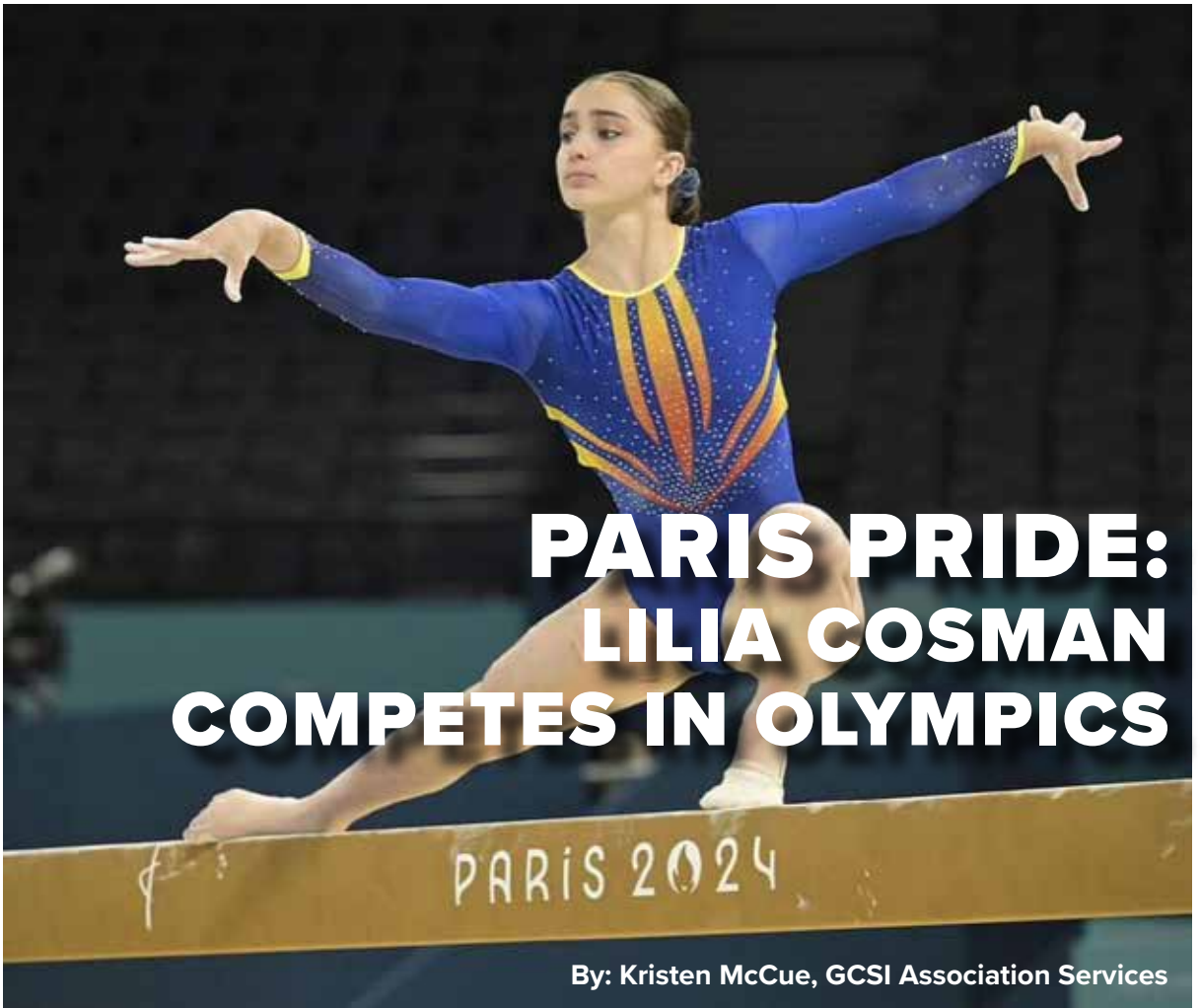


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# PARIS PRIDE: LILIA COSMAN COMPETES IN OLYMPICS

By: Kristen McCue, GCSI Association Services

*Editor's Note: This is a follow-up to our story on Lilia in the Summer 2024 issue. To read the original story on Lilia Cosman, please see Pipeline Vol. 33, No. 2.*

It was the moment Lilia Cosman had been dreaming of since she was a little girl: the Olympics. After 12 years of commitment and dedication to her craft, the 16-year-old gymnast had made it to Paris.

This summer, Lilia, the daughter of Angie Cosman, a drain engineer for the Ingham County Drain Office, competed at the Paris Olympics with the Romanian gymnastics team.

Competing in vault and bars, Lilia helped her team finish in seventh place.

"I tried to go there and really soak in everything ... And just think, 'Wow, I'm actually here,'" Lilia said. "It felt really amazing, and the environment was really special."

Despite the nerves, there was a lot of camaraderie and even some laughter, she said.

"I told one of my teammates who was in the floor final, 'I know you're very stressed right now, but

just try to go out there and enjoy it,' and that's what I was telling myself – 'Just enjoy the moment' – and it kind of helped calm me down," Lilia said.

Lilia had quite the cheering section in Paris. She was joined by her parents and sister; neighbors; best friend; and her first coach. The excitement was contagious, both in Paris and back home in the U.S.

The Ingham County Drain Office decorated the office in full Olympic style. And they even coordinated a 3 a.m. party to watch the Romanian team compete.

Now that it's back to reality, Lilia plans to finish out her academic year in Romania. Next year, she looks forward to attending MSU, where she'll compete with the Spartan gymnastics team.

"To go and see your daughter, it seemed like a dream," Angie Cosman said. "It wasn't until I was there, and I was in the arena and started walking out and screaming and cheering that it sank in... You don't know if it's reality or if it's still just a dream."

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Lilia's cheering section in Paris



The Romanian team pose in the Olympic Rings



The Romanian team and coaches



The Ingham County Drain office decorated in Lilia's honor

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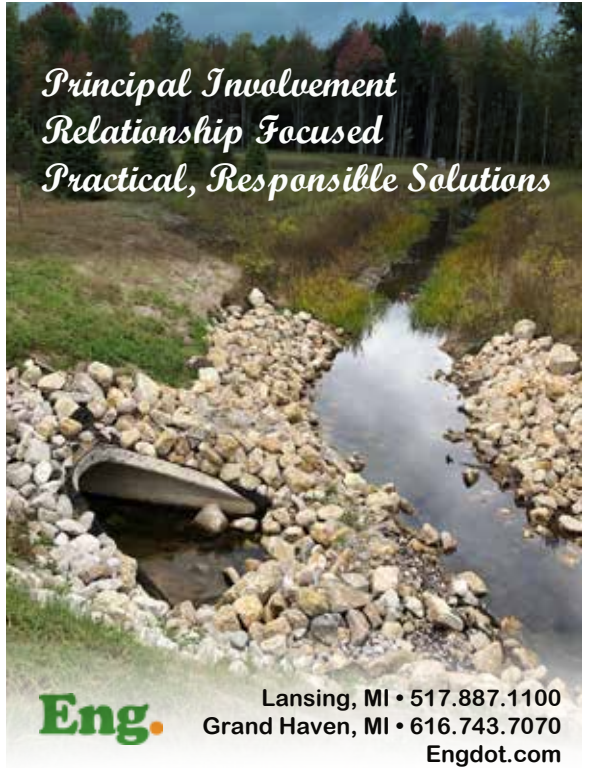
The MACDC Young Professionals Committee (YPC) held their Spring Social at the Gravity Taphouse Grill in Grand Rapids on June 19, 2024. Seven members attended to discuss drains, enjoy food and drinks, and prepare for the 2024 Summer Conference. The YPC also donated funds to the DNR State Parks Track Chairs fundraiser, which helps provide track chairs at state parks for wheelchair access. The next YPC Social will take place this fall; the location is TBD, so check the YPC page on the MACDC website for updates.



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# ASSOCIATE MEMBER NEWS

## BENDZINSKI & CO. IS GROWING!

Bendzinski & Co. is excited to announce that Andy Campbell, CPA, joined the firm in July. Andy has assisted Michigan municipalities for over 11 years as an independent municipal advisor. His experience includes bond insurance for tax backed bonds, utility backed bonds, special revenue bonds, and tax increment financing bonds. In addition, Andy has assisted municipalities with asset management planning, utility rate studies, and securing grants and loans from state and federal government agencies. Andy is a licensed CPA in the State of Michigan and a registered Municipal Advisor with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Andy has passed both Series 50 and 54 exams as required by the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (“MSRB”).



*Campbell*

## SPALDING DEDECKER WELCOMES PROJECT MANAGERS

Spalding DeDecker (SD) has hired David Basilius, P.Eng as a Project Manager in the Detroit office, and Dennis Farmer, PE as a Senior Project Manager in the Construction Engineering Department.

Mr. Basilius brings more than 12 years of experience and is recognized for his extensive expertise in land development, drainage engineering, municipal infrastructure improvements, and construction administration. David holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Windsor.



*Basilius*

David’s notable projects include infrastructure enhancements, road improvements, subdivision developments, and specialized municipal drainage works. He

has managed complex projects such as the comprehensive development of residential subdivisions, road and utility installations, and the design and implementation of stormwater management systems. David is also experienced in working closely with stakeholders to meet community and environmental needs, showcasing strong design capabilities, survey expertise, and on-site inspection skills.

“David’s experience in land development from design through construction make him a great addition to our Urban Design and Sustainability team. We’re excited to have him join us!” says Steve Benedettini, President of Spalding DeDecker.

Mr. Farmer brings over 28 years of expertise in transportation and infrastructure facilities, managing programs ranging from \$44 million to \$1.2 billion. He also has extensive experience with small capital improvement projects and tenant-requested/funded projects in existing facilities, requiring significant stakeholder coordination, with budgets between \$350K and \$3 million. Dennis holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the United States Military Academy and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Michigan.



*Farmer*

Dennis has led teams on infrastructure and transportation design and construction projects of varying sizes in both new “green field” and existing facilities, building relationships with and driving communication between owners, contractors, designers, tenants, regulating agencies and other stakeholders.

“Dennis’ extensive experience in a variety of projects makes him a great addition to our team and our clients will be very well served working with Dennis. I’m delighted to have him join us!” says Steve Benedettini, president of Spalding DeDecker.

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**OCTOBER 11, 2024**

Southwest District Meeting

**OCTOBER 17, 2024**

Southeast District Meeting  
Lenawee County, MI

**OCTOBER 18, 2024**

Northeast District Meeting

**OCTOBER 24, 2024**

Northwest District Meeting

**JANUARY 9-10, 2025**

New Drain Commissioners School  
Mt. Pleasant, MI

**FEBRUARY 12-14, 2025**

MACDC Annual Winter Conference  
Kalamazoo, MI

To place your event on this calendar, contact us at [admin@macdc.us](mailto:admin@macdc.us) or 517.484.9761. For the most up to date details visit, [macdc.us/calendar/](http://macdc.us/calendar/).

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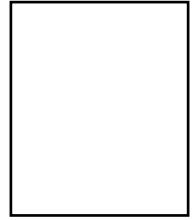
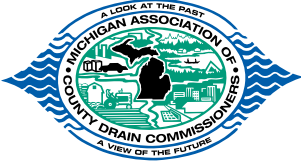


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