



Michigan Association of
County Drain Commissioners

126TH SUMMER CONFERENCE

July 15-17, 2026

Kewadin Casino
Sault Ste, Marie, MI

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GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

All registrants must register online at macdc.us. Payment can be made by check or credit card. To pay by check select that option from the dropdown under Payment Method and mail your check along with your registration confirmation to:

**Michigan Association of County Drain
Commissioners
120 N. Washington Square, Suite 110A
Lansing, MI 48933**

Registration for MACDC Members and Associate Members is \$350; the non-member rates is \$500. There is also a spouse/guest meal package available.

Please register for all persons attending the Conference. This information is needed to ensure that we have name badges for all attendees.

LATE REGISTRATION AND CANCELLATION POLICY

Please be advised that the MACDC Board of Directors has enacted a Late Registration and Cancellation Policy. This policy relates to the Conference Registration and not the Hotel Registration.

Conference Registration through MACDC's Treasurer must be received by **June 30, 2026**. Registrations received after that date will be required to pay a late registration fee of **\$25.00**.

Cancellations. Persons who cancel their Conference Registration by **June 30, 2026** will receive a full refund. No refunds will be granted after that date.

These policies will be enforced by MACDC's Treasurer.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Call Group Reservations at 1-800-539-2346 and reference group code 2043.

The room rate is \$115 per night plus taxes and applicable fees.

All reservations must be made by June 14, 2026. Reservations made after this date will be accepted based upon availability and at the prevailing discounted rate.

EDUCATIONAL CREDIT

Educational credit for Engineers and Surveyors may be applicable for certain sessions at the Conference. Attendees may claim credit based on the requirements for their particular license.

MEALS

Your Conference Registration includes 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 2 dinners. You may also purchase guest meals a la carte. *Please indicate any special dietary needs on your registration.*

THURSDAY AFTERNOON NETWORKING

Thursday's networking events are generously provided by our Associate Members. Please indicate your choice of event on the registration form.

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SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Tuesday, July 14

1:30 pm Legislative Meeting
3:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, July 15

9:00 am Registration Begins
12:00 pm Lunch on your own
1:15 pm More Splits, More Stormwater?
2:00 pm In the Spotlight: A Playbook for Severe Storm Response
2:30 pm Working with Legislators in Lansing
3:00 pm Break
3:15 pm YPC Interactive Presentation
4:00 pm Spherical Imagery for Drains
4:30 pm Legislative Update
6:00 pm Reception
7:00 pm Dinner
9:00 pm Entertainment (on-site)

Thursday, July 16

7:30 am Breakfast
9:00 am Bats, Beavers, and Butterflies
9:30 am You Have Not Because You Ask Not
10:00 am Processing FOIA Requests
10:30 am Break
10:45 am What's Ahead at EGLE
11:30 am Ask an Engineer
12:00 pm Lunch
1:00 pm Networking Activities (off-site)
6:00 pm Reception
7:00 pm Dinner

Friday, July 17

7:30 am Breakfast
9:00 am Associate Member Meeting
9:30 am MACDC District Meetings
10:00 am MACDC Business Meeting
10:30 am Adjourn

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Wednesday, July 15

1:15—2:00 pm

More Splits, More Stormwater? Land Division Act Revisions and Municipal Drainage Coordination

Cole Hedrick, Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes

Recent revisions to the Land Division Act significantly increase the number of parcels that can be created from a parent parcel, meaning more development and more stormwater runoff impacting county drains and property in general. This presentation covers the key changes and offers practical strategies for coordinating with municipalities to help account for drainage during the land division review process.

2:00—2:30 pm

In the Spotlight: A Playbook for Severe Storm Response

Emily Grasch, Ottawa County Water Resources

Andrew Stoffel, Land & Resource Engineering (LRE)

Drawing on lessons from spring flooding, this panel covers emergency coordination, public response, field verification, and documentation—building a consistent SOP that balances transparency and clear communication with PA 222 and FOIA realities.

2:30—3:00 pm

Working with Legislators in Lansing

Del Chenault, Principal, Clark Hill Public Strategies

This presentation will discuss best strategies on effectively working with state leaders in Lansing. This session will address working with legislators both in an out of your county, providing information about your office and duties to legislators in meaningful and impactful ways, tips on working with and through staff, effectively building political coalitions, and strategies to foresee and manage political threats.

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CONFERENCE SESSIONS *cont.*

3:15—4:00 pm

YPC Interactive Presentation

MACDC Young Professionals Committee

Join our Young Professionals Committee for an interactive presentation featuring audience participation and test your MACDC knowledge. Tune in for this session and be rewarded for participation.

4:00—4:30 pm

Spherical Imagery for Drains

James Ensign, Wade Trim

Ryan Abrahamsen, Terrain360

This new technology involves traversing a watercourse via kayak, wading, or drone and capturing 360 degree photographs of the length. The photographs are then stitched together resulting in an image similar to "Google Street View" where a Drain Commissioner, staff or consultant can virtually walk the centerline of a drain from their computer. The data is housed in a GIS format and you can click on any section of the drain to quickly move to locations of interest. The presentation will highlight the benefits to Drain Offices showing example sections from work completed in the Cleveland area for the NEORSD.

4:30—5:00 pm

Legislative Update

Deena Bosworth, Michigan Association of Counties

MACDC lobbyist Deena Bosworth will discuss the bills that have been introduced this legislative session that affect the work of county drain offices.

Thursday, July 16

9:00—9:30 am

Bats, Beavers, and Butterflies

Bill Becker, Spicer Group

Explore local Bats, Bees, and beaver regulations, restrictions, or laws that may affect drain projects.

9:30—10:00 am

You Have Not Because You Ask Not: How to leverage private projects for public county drain improvement

Joel Morgan, Kent County Drain Office

Paul Forton, Spicer Group

Private development doesn't have to be a headache to you. Sometimes, it can solve the headache. We'd like to discuss how we've coordinated with private development projects to find improvements on county drains.

10:00—10:30 am

Processing FOIA Requests: Common Mistakes, Misconceptions, and Best Practices

Trent Cunningham, Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes

In this session, we will discuss common mistakes or misconceptions that we often see related to processing FOIA requests and appeals. We will also discuss the best practices to ensure FOIA requests are being processed according to law and that FOIA requests are being processed in the most cost-efficient manner possible.

10:45—11:30 am

What's Ahead at EGLE

Luke Trumble and Kate Kirkpatrick, EGLE

EGLE will provide updates on dam safety, recent flooding, stream project best management practices, and other programmatic priorities for the dam safety, wetlands, and streams programs in the Water Resource Division.

11:30 am—12:00 pm

Ask an Engineer: Drainage Engineering Questions, Answers & Practical Insights

After the popularity of our previous Ask a Lawyer session we are back with another round - this time from the engineering side.