



## Elizabeth Riggs

Senior Consultant

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### Education

Lawrence University, BA in English and Environmental Studies

University of Michigan, School for Environment and Sustainability, MS in Natural Resource Management and Policy

Currently pursuing a specialization in Leading People and Teams from the University of Michigan, Ross School of Business

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### Position with Firm

**2019–present**     **Senior Consultant.** Cultivates new project opportunities and clients that contribute to strong, sustainable economies and placemaking. Researches, analyzes, and writes reports and strategy documents related to local, state, and national policy issues while developing client relationships and high-quality project deliverables. Plans and facilitates meetings, supervises staff, and provides strategic counsel.

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### Previous Professional Experience

**2018–present**     **Managing Director,** *Freshwater Coast Solutions, LLC*, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Provides strategic consulting, project planning and management, and writing services to public- and private-sector clients. Organizes and conducts robust stakeholder engagement processes to create sustainable communities. Promotes community and economic development efforts, as well as innovation in conservation to local, state, national, and provincial partners.

**2012–2018**     **Deputy Director,** *Huron River Watershed Council*, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Led or co-led organizational strategic planning and visioning, program development, external and board/staff relations, and communications. Designed and implemented strategies to connect with elected officials and legislative staff, fostering external relationships and advancement of issues. Cultivated strategic partnerships and secured new funding to launch work on emerging issues. Spearheaded policy development and analysis on key state and federal policies to develop outreach campaigns and influence policy outcomes.

- 2011–2018**      **Manager, RiverUp! Campaign, Huron River Watershed Council, Ann Arbor, Michigan.**  
Directed a \$50 million public-private river revitalization campaign. Supervised staff and volunteers and performed all aspects of program management. Directed ongoing pipeline and portfolio management for blue economy development, with a focus on remediating and redeveloping high-profile sites. Developed and sustained relationships with major donors, funders, and community partners. Conducted an economic impact study on the Huron River, using original data to spur investments in compatible development, conservation, and placemaking. Led process for federal designation of the Huron River Water Trail as the country's 18<sup>th</sup> National Water Trail.
- 1999–2010**      **Program Manager, Huron River Watershed Council, Ann Arbor, Michigan.** Developed and administered budgets, secured funds of \$1.6 million, authored reports and conducted evaluations, and supervised staff and volunteers. Directed an initiative with municipal, business, and university partners to meet federal Clean Water Act requirements. Formed a coalition around creation and passage of state legislation that limits phosphorus fertilizer use to protect freshwater systems. Led stakeholder engagement and technical aspects for multiple watershed management planning processes.
- 1998–1999**      **Office of Air and Radiation Associate, Environmental Protection Agency, Ann Arbor, Michigan.** Developed and implemented a national air quality initiative to provide state and local audiences with access to critical information regarding incentive-based transportation programs. Designed and developed informational and educational materials for national exposure. Maintained and enhanced an online database of state voluntary compliance programs. Assisted the President's Council on Sustainable Development in creating and promoting a suite of visioning tools for sustainable community design and planning.

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### Professional and Community Activities

- Member of the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance Board of Directors, 2019–present
- Fellow of the Great Lakes Leadership Academy, 2013–present
- Member of the Michigan Environmental Council Board of Directors, 2017–2018

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### Selected Presentations and Media Appearances

- “Trails for a Healthy Community and Healthy Economy.” November 2018. Keynote presenter, Ontario Trails Conference. Brantford, Ontario.
- “Discovering the Economic Impact of River Revitalization.” March 2018. Keynote presenter, Fox River Summit. Burlington, Wisconsin.
- “The River as Main Street.” May 2015. Presenter, River Rally Conference. Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico.
- “Placemaking H<sub>2</sub>O, Maximizing Waterways for Community Development.” October 2013. Presenter, Michigan Association of Planning Annual Conference. Kalamazoo, Michigan.

- “Economic Impact of the Huron River.” March 2018. Presenter, American Rivers webinar.
- “Powerful Partnerships: Lessons Learned on Leveraging Public-private Funding for Trails.” December 2016. Presenter, American Trails webinar.
- “[The Blue Economy of the Huron River](#).” January 2018. Documentary film host.
- “[All Things Considered](#).” October 2017. Interview with Lisa Barry, WEMU.