



## **Jonathon R. E. Beard**

Director, Environment

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### **Position with Firm**

- 2020–present ***Director, Environment.*** Conducts research for the firm and its clients. Develops proposals, writes reports, and facilitates group discussions to develop consensus strategies to address complex issues. Specializes in natural resource and environmental issues, including water quality, land use, resource management, and economic development. Serves as the trust manager and secretary for the multimillion-dollar Great Lakes Fishery Trust (GLFT), which is managed and staffed by Public Sector Consultants. Oversees project staff and provides fiscal management and strategic direction to the organization. Cultivates partnerships with local, state, and federal entities, universities, philanthropy, and nonprofit organizations to develop and administer projects that advance the mission of the GLFT.
- 2016–2020 ***Senior Consultant.***
- 2010–2016 ***Consultant.***

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### **Previous Professional Experience**

- 2010 ***Environmental Legislative Fellow, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, Washington, D.C.***  
Attended congressional hearings and agency meetings to follow relevant legislation. Provided briefs to senior staff, partner organizations, and trade association members. Developed policy briefs used in advocacy efforts in conjunction with senior staff and partner organizations.
- 2009–2010 ***Research Assistant, Michigan State University Land Policy Institute, Planning and Zoning Center, East Lansing, Michigan.*** Conducted asset-based community and economic development projects with a research and outreach team. Engaged community, business, and government leaders to develop and implement strategic goals through focus groups and interviews. Researched and analyzed programs and policies designed to encourage economic growth in the knowledge-based economy. Presented analysis and research findings to clients, stakeholders, and other interested parties through presentations, focus groups, and reports.
- 2008 ***Assistant Laboratory Technician, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Lansing, Michigan.*** Prepared and analyzed field samples for various analytical parameters. Performed data entry of analytical results. Maintained and calibrated laboratory equipment.

2005–2008	<b>Lead Researcher</b> , <i>PM Environmental Inc.</i> , Lansing, Michigan. Coordinated and oversaw research operations for five offices in three states. Conducted site-specific research for properties throughout the nation related to brownfield redevelopment plans, phase one and two environmental site assessments, and baseline environmental assessments. Mentored, supervised, trained, and coordinated other researchers. Researched environmental laws, rules, and regulations of multiple states.
Education	Michigan State University, BS with honors in Environmental Studies and Agriscience with a concentration in Environmental Science and Policy and a specialization in Environmental Economics

## Publications

- *A Sustainable Watershed Funding Strategy for Michigan: Public Opinion Poll*. November 2019. Prepared for the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council.
- *The Economic Impact of Trail Development*. May 2019. Prepared for the Community Foundation of St. Clair County.
- *The Path to Success: A Review of Leading Practices for Developing Regional Trail Systems*. November 2018. Prepared for the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation.
- *Failing Septic Systems in Mid-Michigan: An Unseen Threat to Public Health*. April 2018. Prepared for the Clinton Conservation District.
- *Flat River Natural River Zoning Review: An Assessment of Local Ordinances*. January 2017. Prepared for the Kent County Conservation District.
- *21<sup>st</sup> Century Infrastructure Commission Report*. November 2016. Prepared for Governor Rick Snyder.
- *A New Approach to Fund Watershed Management: An Evaluation of Funding Mechanisms*. October 2016. Prepared for the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council.
- *Michigan's Water Infrastructure Investment Needs*. April 2016. Prepared for the Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association.
- *Implementing the Upper Maple River Watershed Plan: Approaches to Decrease Environmental and Public Health Risks from Failing Well and Septic Systems*. July 2014. Prepared for the Clinton County Conservation District.
- "A Reflection on Restoration Progress in the Saginaw Bay Watershed." January 2014. *Journal of Great Lakes Research* 40 (1): 192–200.
- *Northern Michigan Property Values: The Significance of Riverfront Properties*. August 2013. Prepared for Anglers of the Au Sable.
- *Great Bear Watershed Management Plan*. July 2013. Prepared for the Manistee County Community Foundation and the Greater Bear Watershed Coordinating Committee.

- *Saginaw River and Bay Area of Concern: Restoration Plan for the Habitat and Populations BUIs*. September 2012. Prepared for the Partnership for the Saginaw Bay Watershed.
- *Saginaw Bay Watershed and Area of Concern Conference Handout*. March 2012. Prepared for the Land Policy Institute at Michigan State University.
- *Opportunities to Advance The Nature Conservancy's Agriculture and Altered Hydrology Strategy in the Saginaw Bay Watershed*. June 2011. Prepared for the Nature.
- *Great Lansing Next: A Plan for Regional Prosperity*. November 2009. Prepared for the Lansing Economic Area Partnership by the Land Policy Institute.

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## Awards

- Conservation Partner of the Year, Michigan Association of Conservation Districts, 2018
- Dr. Frank Fear Award for Professional Achievement, Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2010
- William A. Demmer Scholar, Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2010
- Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America, 2003