



Elizabeth Riggs

Director, Energy and Environment

Position with Firm

- 2024–present **Director.** Cultivates relationships with clients and partners that contribute to resilient, sustainable communities. Works with local, state, and national organizations on natural resource and environmental policy issues, including water, land and resource management and economic development. Facilitates multi-stakeholder partnerships, supervises staff, and provides strategic counsel.
- 2019–2024 **Senior Consultant.** Managed projects for state resource agencies, local and regional government, higher education, nonprofit organizations, utilities, and philanthropic organizations. Researched, analyzed, and wrote reports and strategy documents related to local, state, and national policy issues including forest management, river corridor and floodplain protection, dam management and safety, and nature-based solutions. Developed client relationships and high-quality project deliverables. Facilitated group discussions to design consensus strategies for addressing complex issues. Served as grant manager for the stewardship program of the Great Lakes Fishery Trust, which is managed and staffed by Public Sector Consultants.

Previous Professional Experience

- 2018–2019 **Managing Director, Freshwater Coast Solutions, LLC**, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Provided strategic consulting, project planning and management, and writing services to public- and private-sector clients. Organized and conducted robust stakeholder engagement processes to create sustainable communities. Promoted community and economic development efforts, as well as innovation in conservation to local, state, national, and provincial partners. Clients included University Research Corridor, National Wildlife Federation, and Ontario Trails.

- 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 such as strategic dam removal and climate mitigation and adaptation. 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 18th 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, including creation of a citizen scientist water quality monitoring program.
- 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.
- Education
Lawrence University, BA in English and Environmental Studies
University of Michigan, School for Environment and Sustainability, MS in Natural Resource Management and Policy



Activities

- Chair, Greenbelt Advisory Commission, City of Ann Arbor, 2022–present
- Advisor, Saginaw Bay Monitoring Consortium, The Nature Conservancy in Michigan, 2022–present
- Executive Committee, Commissioner, Greenbelt Advisory Commission, City of Ann Arbor, 2020–present
- Vice Chair, Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance Board of Directors, 2019–2021
- Fellow of the Great Lakes Leadership Academy, 2013–present
- Member of the Michigan Environmental Council Board of Directors, 2017–2018