



**Protecting &
Celebrating Our
Natural Resources**



**MICHIGAN
ENVIRONMENTAL
COUNCIL**

Our Mission

Michigan Environmental Council drives the environmental agenda in Michigan.

We develop innovative policy ideas; communicate them to key audiences in a compelling fashion; and engage our members, community leaders and residents as effective advocates for shared goals.

By leading powerful, diverse collaborations, we inspire state leaders to adopt pioneering solutions that set a global standard for environmental leadership.

Who is MEC?

- Six leading environmental organizations came together in 1980 to create a new non-partisan non-profit charged to be the voice for Michigan's environment in the state Capitol.
- Today, we have a staff of 15 and represent 70+ organizations across the state. Board is a mix of member organizations and at-large leaders.
- Striving to be a positive, forward-looking instrument for innovative policy solutions to statewide challenges.



Team and Functional Priorities

Policy Director - **Sean Hammond**

Director of Strategic Campaigns - **Becca Maher**

Program Director - Energy, Drinking Water, Legislative Affairs -
Charlotte Jameson

Program Director - Health - **Tina Reynolds**

Program Director - Agriculture and Surface Water - **Tom Zimnicki**

Policy Specialist - Energy - **Abby Wallace**

Our Member Groups

ACCESS

AFFEWS

Adrian Dominican Sisters

Alliance for the Great Lakes

Alliance to Halt Fermi 3

Anglers of the Au Sable

Au Sable River Watershed Committee

Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination

Citizens' Climate Lobby, Michigan

Clean Water Fund

CLEARCorps Detroit

Clinton River Watershed Council

Coalition to Save the Menominee River

Detroit Audubon

Detroit RiverFront Conservancy

East Michigan Environmental Action Council

Ecology Center

Environment Michigan

Research & Policy Center

Environmental Transformation Movement of Flint

Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan

Friends of the Detroit River

Friends of the Jordan River Watershed

Friends of the Rouge

Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

Great Lakes Council of Fly Fishers International

Great Lakes Mediation

Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities

Healthy Pine River

Huron River Watershed Council

Izaak Walton League – Michigan IKEs

Kalamazoo Environmental Council

Kalamazoo River Watershed Council

League of Michigan Bicyclists

League of Women Voters of Michigan

Legacy Land Conservancy

Liaison for Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

Lone Tree Council

Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers

Michigan Audubon

Michigan Botanical Club

Michigan Citizens Against Toxic Substances

Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action

Michigan Energy Options

Michigan Interfaith Power and Light

Michigan Lakes & Streams Association

Michigan Land Trustees

Michigan League of Conservation Voters

Education Fund

Michigan Nurses Association

Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance

Michigan Recycling Coalition Michigan Resource Stewards

Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance

Michigan Trout Unlimited

Michigan Waterfront Alliance

Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council

Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance

Muskegon Save Our Shoreline

NAACP – Michigan State Conference

National Parks Conservation Association

Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council

PFAS Alliance

Rogue River Watershed Partners

Scenic Michigan

Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy

Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy

Stewardship Network

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

Transportation Riders United

Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition

Voices for Carbon Neutrality

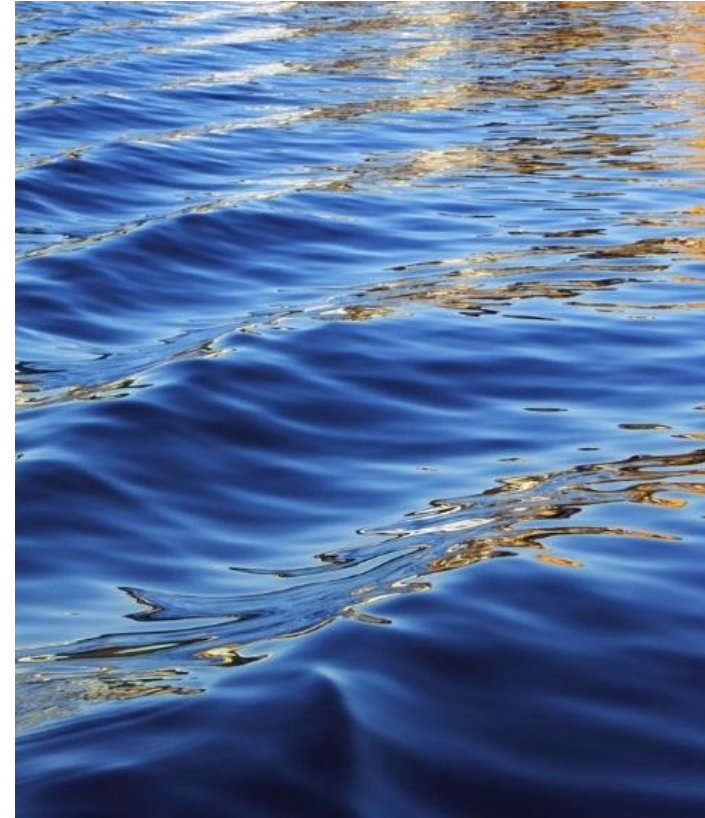
Voices for Earth Justice

West Michigan Environmental Action Council



What we do

From Policy to Legislation to Implementation

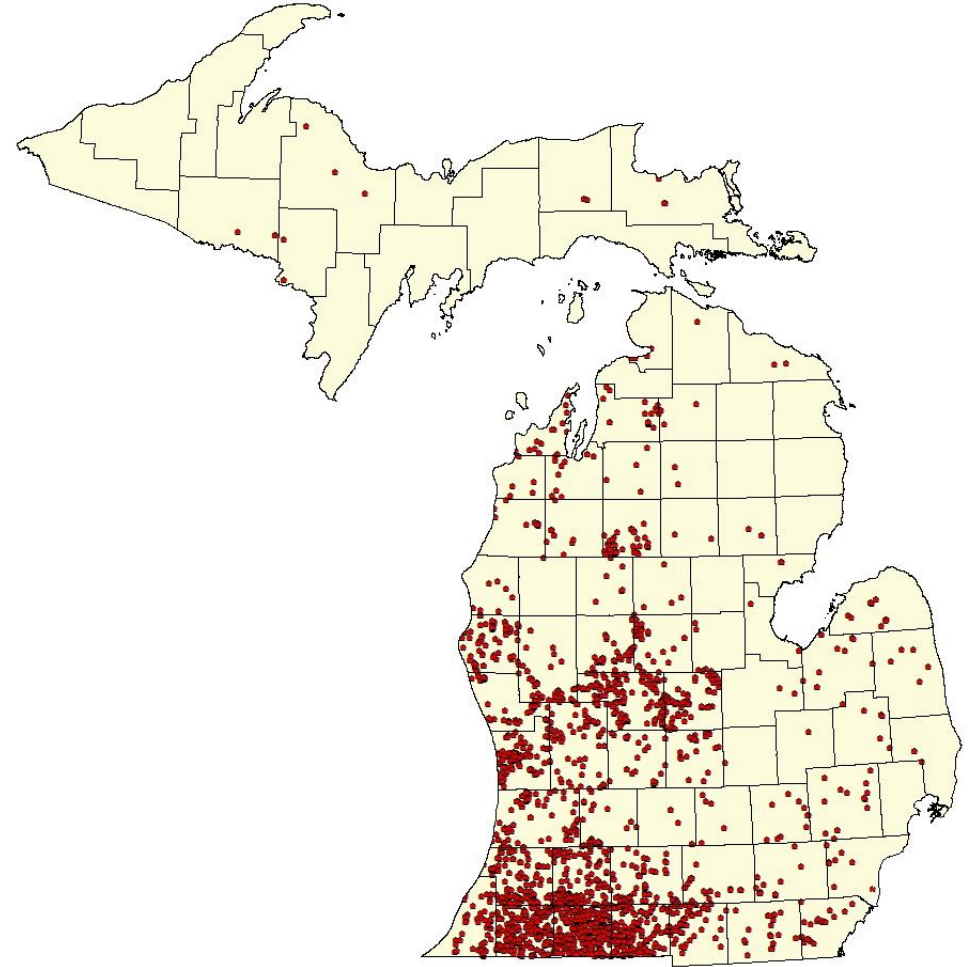


Part 632 Mining Law


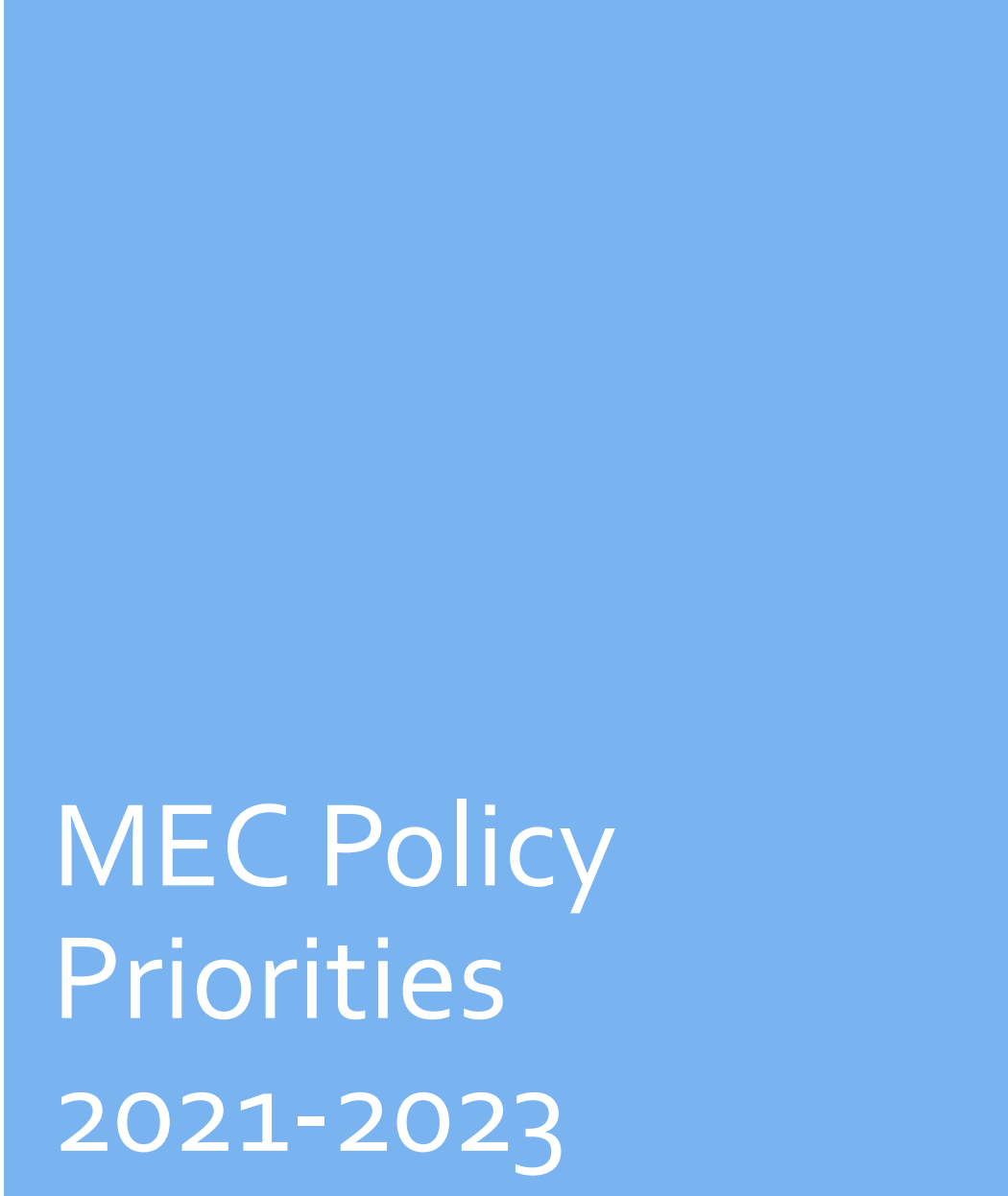
- In 2004 the DEQ and DNR convened a workgroup to discuss the development of sulfide mining in the Upper Peninsula
- MEC representative Brad Garmon worked with other stakeholders to develop regulations that would allow sulfide mining and protect the environment
- The bill had widespread support and passed both the House and the Senate unanimously
- MEC continued their involvement with the development of the regulations authorized by the bill, serving as part of the stakeholder group within that process
- To this day, MEC continues to weigh in on permit applications when we feel they are not up to the standards that were unanimously agreed to in the development of the law

Water Use Advisory Council

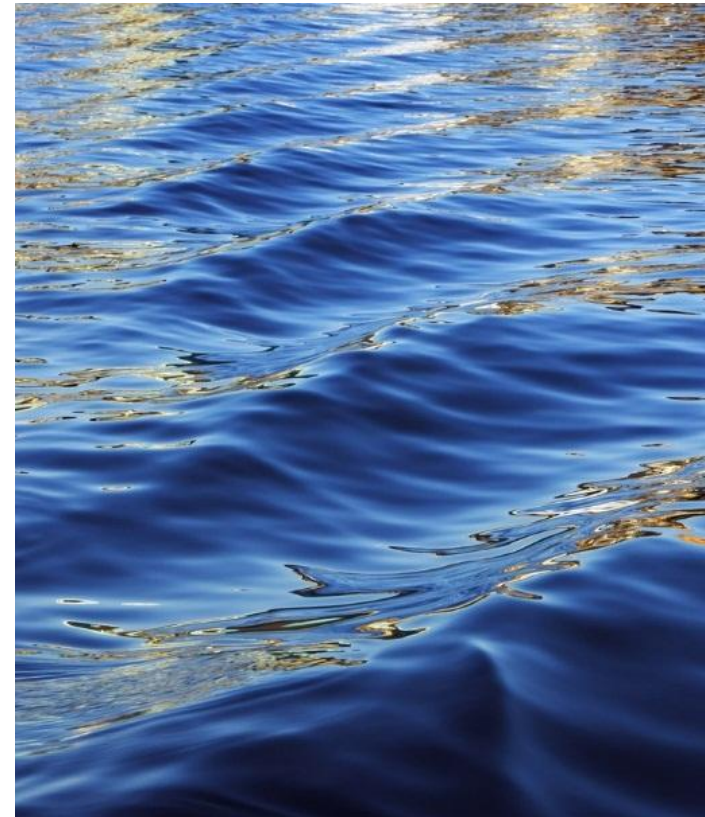
- Since 2003, there have been multiple iterations of what is currently called the Water Use Advisory Council
- This board was created largely in conjunction with the Great Lakes Compact to address groundwater withdrawals in the state and prevent Great Lakes diversions
- The group developed the Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool (WWAT) as part of this process
- MEC has been involved since day 1 and continues to participate in workgroups and watch how the WWAT and other regulations are being implemented



Credit: Bridge Magazine



MEC Policy Priorities 2021-2023



Source Water Priorities

- **Reduce toxins and nutrient pollution in our surface water.**
This broad goal encompasses doing more to hold farmers accountable for nutrient runoff, creating better management for stormwater and combined sewers, and creating a statewide septic code.
- **Holistic surface water management.**
Make changes to state law to better manage water on the watershed scale, instead of county by county. Additionally, create processes and setbacks for addressing lake level fluctuations in Great Lakes and inland lakes.
- **Address structural issues in groundwater protection.**
Improve our scientific understanding of groundwater by implementing findings of the Water Use Advisory Council to ensure sustainable groundwater withdrawals.

Drinking Water Priorities

- **Ensure transparency and equity in water rates.**
Create programs to ensure data transparency and accountability in water rates and create affordability programs and more equitable water rates.
- **Fund our crumbling infrastructure.**
Work to implement statewide funding to help repair our water infrastructure across the state, watchdog the asset management planning process, and update our state revolving loan fund program.

Natural Resources Committee Priorities

- **Protect our children from water contaminants.**
Implement a filter first policy in our schools and daycares to save money and be more protective than test and treat programs. Continue to monitor best practices to address contaminants of emerging concern like PFAS.
- **Revamp recycling.**
Finalize the changes to Part 115 and once completed, use that momentum to launch discussions to modernize the bottle bill, as well as build programs for the state to lead by example on using recycled material in our roads and buildings.
- **Equitable access to public lands.**
Following the success of Proposal 1, ensure that the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and State Park Endowment Fund grants are distributed throughout the state so that our urban communities have much needed access to world class public lands.

Thank You!



**MICHIGAN
ENVIRONMENTAL
COUNCIL**

Michigan Environmental Council

602 W. Ionia Street | Lansing, MI 48864

www.environmentalcouncil.org

[Facebook.com/MichiganEnvironmentalCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/MichiganEnvironmentalCouncil)

[Twitter.com/MichEnvCouncil](https://twitter.com/MichEnvCouncil)