



MICHIGAN COUNTIES VIRTUAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

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Michigan's Failing Septic Policy - What's All the Stink About?

12:45 PM - 1:45 PM



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Jon Beard is a director at Public Sector Consultants, specializing in natural resource and environmental issues, including water quality, land use, and resource management, as well as community and economic development. He conducts research and analysis, writes reports, and facilitates group discussions to develop consensus strategies for addressing complex problems.

Jon also serves as the trust manager and secretary for the multimillion-dollar Great Lakes Fishery Trust, which is managed and staffed by PSC. In this role, he oversees project staff and provides fiscal management and strategic direction to the organization. Additionally, he works with local, state, and federal entities, universities, and nonprofit organizations to develop and administer projects that advance the mission of the GLFT.

Jon holds a BS from Michigan State University where he studied environmental economics, science, and policy.

Session Description:

Throughout Michigan, septic systems are often identified as a source of pollution that can threaten public health. However, at a local level, information is often unavailable about the extent of the problem. Public Sector Consultants has worked with county partners for over a decade to understand the issue in their communities and develop solutions. This presentation will provide background information on septic management in Michigan, highlight environmental and public health challenges local communities can face, and discuss policy alternatives and decision points for decision makers in crafting solutions to address Michigan's failing septic systems.

