

# RURAL MICHIGAN INITIATIVE

2019 Conference

## Conference Partners

Alma College  
Michigan Environmental Council  
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## Conference Sponsors

Barnes & Thornburg, LLP  
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8:00–9:00 a.m.	Registration and Refreshments	
9:00–9:15 a.m.	Welcome/Opening Remarks	Jeff Abernathy, President, Alma College Jason Peters, Professor of English, Augustana College
9:15–10:00 a.m.	Keynote Speaker	Collin O'Mara, President and CEO, National Wildlife Federation
10:00–10:30 a.m.	Presentation 1: The Case of the Pine River Watershed	Murray Borrello, Instructor of Environmental Studies, Alma College Tim Keeton, Associate Professor of Biology, Alma College
10:30–10:45 a.m.	Break	
10:45–11:30 a.m.	Presentation 2: Threats to Health in and Around the Great Lakes	Joan Rose, Homer Nowlin Endowed Chair in Water Research, Michigan State University
11:30 a.m.–Noon	Presentation 3: Challenges in Addressing Water Quality Issues in Rural Michigan	Kara Cook, Policy Advisor on Energy and Environment, Executive Office of Governor Gretchen Whitmer
Noon–1:15 p.m.	Networking Lunch	
1:15–1:30 p.m.	Break	
1:30–2:15 p.m.	Panel Discussions: Session 1: Impacts on Community Health in Rural Michigan	Joan Rose Brad Garmon, Director, Michigan Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry Liz Braddock, Director of Environmental Health, Mid-Michigan District Health Department Rob Sisson, Commissioner, International Joint Commission
2:20–3:00 p.m.	Panel Discussions: Session 2: Impacts on Economic Development Now and in the Future in Rural Michigan	John Ikerd, Author Luke Forrest, Executive Director, Community Economic Development Association of Michigan Erika Powers, Chair, Environmental Department, Barnes & Thornburg, LLP Amy Trotter, Executive Director, Michigan United Conservation Clubs Paul Sachs, Director, Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement
3:00–3:10 p.m.	Break	
3:10–4:00 p.m.	Keynote Speaker	John Ikerd
4:00–4:15 p.m.	Closing	Jason Peters