



A Coalition of Organizations Protecting Michigan's People and the Environment

Michigan's Archangel Ancient Tree Archive drawing national notice

Tiny nonprofit has lofty goal



Jake Milarch climbing giant sequoia

For a tiny nonprofit headquartered in the northern Michigan village of Copemish, the Archangel Ancient Tree Archive sure gets a lot of ink.

The group has received in-depth coverage in *The New York Times*, on NPR and just about any other major media outlet you'd care to mention. Reporters are intrigued by the little nonprofit's lofty goal—preserve the world's forests by traveling the globe to clone Earth's biggest, strongest trees and replant them where their genetics will thrive.

When MEC spoke with Archangel founder David Milarch in mid-March, three documentaries about his work

were in production, and a video crew from the CBC had visited the week before. Milarch and his work are the subject of a 2012 book, *The Man Who Planted Trees*, by Jim Robbins. It's the kind of press most environmental groups only dream of.

That's in part because Milarch is no straight-from-central-casting environmentalist. The bear-sized nurseryman and former competitive arm wrestler is fond of smoking Marlboros and peppering his conversation with profanity.

In 1991, realizing his heavy drinking had become alcoholism, he locked himself in a room and vowed to stay there until he got sober or died. It was

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Sleeping Bear earns federal wilderness status

Long process starts in conflict, ends in consensus

Michigan's iconic and globally rare freshwater dune system has earned Congress' first wilderness designation since 2009, capping more than a decade of discussion about how best to protect one of the region's signature natural areas

while keeping it open to hunters, anglers, beach lovers and others.

The Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Conservation and Recreation Act was signed by President Obama March 13. It designates as wilderness 32,500 acres of the park that



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PURPOSE

Founded in 1980, MEC is a coalition of over 60 environmental and public health organizations with more than 200,000 individual members. For 34 years, MEC has provided a voice for the environment at the State Capital. In addition to serving as a clearinghouse of environmental information, MEC develops public policy, educates elected officials and the public, and provides training and support to member organizations.

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QUOTABLE

“How do you fix the destruction of the world’s old-growth forests? You rebuild them.”

—David Milarch of Michigan-based Archangel Ancient Tree Archive

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Chris Kolb

Show me your budget, I'll tell you your values

Proposed state budget shows promise for natural resource protection

"Don't tell me what you value, show me your budget, and I'll tell you what you value," Vice President Joe Biden is credited with saying. As a former State House Appropriations Committee member, my colleagues and I used to say "policy schmolicy." All the policy in the world doesn't matter unless you fund it!

That's why we're cautiously optimistic about the priorities in Governor Rick Snyder's proposed budget for the coming fiscal year, with new and increased funding for many programs to protect and enhance our natural resources and environment. The legis-

lature is currently working to produce its own budgets by early summer.

We must be vigilant throughout this process because, as former State Senator Harry Gast observed, "the governor proposes and the legislature deposes." That appears true this year.

Long knives

No sooner was the budget to the legislature than the long knives came out, particularly in the State House as the Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources voted to cut \$11 million in General Fund dollars from the DNR budget. That included cuts to invasive species protection, trails,

forests and state parks among others.

But the governor's proposal is still the starting point for debate, so let's see what's worth fighting for!

Snyder's budget for FY 2015 is a \$52 billion spending plan, which is about a 2 percent increase over the current budget.

A 7.1 percent increase in General Fund dollars—to \$9.8 billion—allows the governor to fund many of his budget priorities. Both the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would see healthy increases in General Fund revenue—40 percent and 85 percent, respectively.

See **Show me your budget**, page 9



Bell ringers! Environmental successes won in recent weeks

In each issue of the *Michigan Environmental Report*, we celebrate accomplishments by MEC and member groups.

Recycling awakening

The State of Michigan awakened from its decades-long recycling torpor when Gov. Rick Snyder included more than \$1 million for recycling in his budget proposal for the coming year. The money will fund three positions to help coordinate regional recycling systems, conduct educational outreach and develop markets for recycled materials. Snyder said he wants to double Michigan's abysmal 15 percent recycling rate and capture much of the estimated \$435 million worth of materials lost to landfills each year.

Trail towns

Michigan's tremendous trails network may be the best kept secret in the nation. But lawmakers are trying to change that, through a package of five bills that would label all state trails as Pure Michigan trails, use "trail towns" to connect trails between communities and make trail information available both on a computer and through an app. This is a terrific step toward promoting Michigan's quality of life as a drawing card for visitors, employers and young talent.

Clean, affordable

A pair of new reports made it even clearer that renewable power is reliable, affordable and cost-effective. Both the Michigan Public Service Commission and the Union of Concerned Scientists issued reports recently. The MPSC report noted Michigan's renewable electric prices continue to drop. The UCS report said that Michigan—with a rate increase of only 0.3 percent—could generate 30 percent of its electricity from wind and other renewable sources.

Dune designation

We've got Sleeping Bear Dunes' wilderness designation on our front page, but we would be remiss if we didn't also list it here. With the arguable exception of the Mighty Mac and the auto industry, nothing says Michigan like our huge dunes. Now, if we can only get our state legislators to stop chipping away at Michigan's Critical Dunes Act, we can ensure that future generations enjoy all our dunes, and not just the federally protected ones.

Archangel Archive

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nearly the latter. His kidneys and liver shut down from the sudden shock, and Milarch says he had a near-death experience. He awoke convinced his purpose in life was to restore the planet's forests by cloning, propagating and replanting the world's biggest, oldest trees before they're gone. In 1996, he founded the nonprofit Champion Tree Project, which later became Archangel.

While his personal story is hard to resist, Milarch says it's the group's straightforward mission and the urgency of the work that is so intriguing.

"There's a tremendous need to do something to help slow or reverse climate change, and also to help re-establish the natural ecosystems of the world," he said. "Our project fits that to a T in all its simplicity. It is a project whose time has come."

Less than 10 percent of America's old-growth forest remains. The woods we've grown accustomed to are full of scraggly runts, Milarch says—the leftovers after loggers cut the biggest, healthiest trees. In his book, Robbins calls it evolution in reverse.

"How do you fix the destruction of the world's old-growth forests?" Milarch asks. "You rebuild them."

In the genes?

His guiding assumption is that champion trees may contain survival secrets worth preserving. Planting their clones where they can cross-pollinate other trees helps spread those favorable genetic traits throughout forests.

Critics argue that it's unclear if those trees achieved their age and stature because of superior genes, or if they simply have been lucky. Some also claim that cloning, while relatively simple for young trees, is impossible



David Milarch in Copemish propagation facility.

for the ancient specimens that capture Milarch's attention. As journalist Melissa Faye Greene wrote in a recent *Reader's Digest* story, it is "like soliciting human sperm samples and eggs from nursing homes, hospices, and cemeteries."

Archangel has silenced critics on that second point. By taking tissue cuttings and painstakingly coaxing roots from them in the lab, they have successfully cloned trees so old they put wrinkles in your sense of history.

On Earth Day in 2013, they planted clones of coast redwoods between 2,000 and 3,000 years old in nine locations around the world. Some came from California's Fieldbrook Stump, the remains of a 32-foot-wide redwood that Milarch says was the largest tree that ever lived.

Hippocratic roots

They also have cloned the Hippocrates Sycamore, a tree in whose shade the man known as the father of western medicine taught students some 2,400 years ago on the Greek island of Kos. And in 2003 they grew seedlings from what is thought to be the oldest tree on earth, a 4,800-year-old bristlecone pine known as Methuselah. The tree was already well rooted in California's White Mountains when the ancient Egyptians built their pyramids, and about eight centuries old by the time woolly mammoths went

extinct. (While they didn't clone it—they grew seedlings from cones, not cuttings—bristlecone pines can self-pollinate, so the new trees may be genetically identical to Methuselah.)

Milarch said the group has succeeded where others have failed because they are simply unwilling to give up. "It boils down to two people: My son Jake Milarch and his partner Tom Brodhagen," he said. "They have pushed through every barrier. They refuse to quit. They stay up nights searching the Internet to find anyone else who has tried it and why they've failed."

Whether or not ancient trees are genetically outfitted for survival, Milarch says cloning them makes common sense. "If you saw the last dinosaur egg," he asks in Robbins' book, "would you pick it up and save it for study or let it disappear?"

And, he adds, as climate-related changes in the environment become more disturbing and harder to ignore, our forests need any advantage we can give them. Studies have found some trees are moving up mountain slopes as temperatures warm, while others are responding to climate change by speeding up their lifecycles.

Meanwhile, western forests are suffering the worst pine beetle outbreak in North American history. No longer kept in check by winter's deep freeze, the bugs have killed hundreds of millions of pines—trees made more vulnerable to pests by prolonged drought—turning wide swaths of forest from green to brown along the entire span of the Rocky Mountains. The beetles have killed more than 37 million acres of pines in British Columbia alone.

Trees may be among the first victims of climate change, but Milarch is bullish on their potential also to atone for mankind's climate sins.

For instance, last year researchers reported that climate change appears

to have caused a growth spurt in coast redwoods and sequoias, suggesting that planting more of those trees could be an especially effective way to sop up atmospheric carbon. Similarly, another research team made headlines this year when they reported that, contrary to conventional wisdom, trees grow faster and store more carbon the older they get. The largest trees covered just 6 percent of the forests the scientists studied in the western U.S., but they made up a third of the annual growth of forest mass.

At our service

Of course, trees do more than store carbon. Among other services, they excel at filtering water. In his book, Robbins gives the example of Enköping, a town in Sweden that uses a 190-acre willow plantation as its sewage treatment facility and uses the trees’ annual growth as a biofuel to produce electricity.

Milarch especially loves black willows for the water filtration they provide. “The black willows that are native to this state are just incredible,” he said. “They would clean up the Rouge River, no problem.” In fact, Archangel



David and Jake Milarch with redwood seedlings

has thousands of black willow clones available for free to anyone who asks for them. “Let’s start cleaning up your lakes, your rivers, your wetlands,” Milarch said.

As word spreads about Archangel’s work, demand for the group’s expertise is through the roof, Milarch said. “The whole world is clamoring for us to come and help,” he said. “The demand globally is just unbelievable.”

Yet somehow that enthusiasm has not translated into funding. Late this winter, the organization laid off three-quarters of its staff, leaving just five people to identify, clone, care for and plant champion trees.

“The main issue is funding,” Milarch said. “To go to other countries, collect and reproduce trees is quite expensive, and Archangel is a non-profit funded solely by donations.”

Milarch said the group works all over the world but has strong Michigan connections. For instance, he and colleagues gave the University of Michigan’s Matthaei Botanical Gardens a 4,000-year-old champion sequoia they cloned, and UM students are working on a project to determine how many such trees it would take to offset the university’s carbon footprint.

“I am a fourth-generation nurseryman on our farm here in Copemish,” Milarch said. “My sons and grandchildren also live on the farm, so we have a sixth generation here. We aren’t going anywhere.”

All the news coverage of Archangel has led to a wave of visitors to the group’s headquarters near Traverse City. Milarch welcomes the guests—he is a tireless evangelist of the big-tree gospel—but he wants to make sure he gets his important work done.

“I invite anyone who likes trees to come visit,” he said. “But please call first.”

—By Andy McGlashen, MEC

Michigan trees measure up!

Michigan may not have towering giant sequoias, but we’ve got plenty of big trees. The nonprofit group American Forests maintains a register of big trees, scoring them based on height, circumference and other metrics. Here are the 10 Michigan trees with the highest overall points:

Species	Scientific name	County	Total points
Black willow	Salix nigra	Grand Traverse	490
White willow	Salix alba	Clinton	440
Weeping willow	Salix babylonica	Clinton	412
Weeping willow	Salix babylonica	Berrien	407
Green ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	Cass	395
Boxelder	Acer negundo	Washtenaw	353
Northern white cedar	Thuja occidentalis	Leelanau	340
Black maple	Acer nigrum	Kent	311
Rock elm	Ulmus thomasii	Cass	310
Red pine	Pinus resinosa	Gogebic	277

Wilderness status

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gained national attention in 2011 when Good Morning America viewers voted it the nation's most beautiful place.

The bill is a rarity for the polarized 113th Congress, which hasn't designated a single acre for protection under the Wilderness Act. (Neither did the 112th—the first Congress not to add wilderness since 1966.) It received bipartisan support among Michigan's congressional delegation—Democrats Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow co-sponsored the Senate version, while Republican Dan Benishek introduced the House bill—and has the backing of local residents and the National Park Service.

That wasn't always the case. A 1981 wilderness proposal from the NPS

included controversial recommendations such as closing county roads that provided access to beloved beaches. A 2002 plan to implement some of those recommendations touched off public outcry and was quickly scrapped.

Park administrators started the process fresh, with more transparency and inclusion. The current legislation finally took shape after years of research and planning, and nearly 100 public meetings.

"Now the areas proposed for wilderness make sense, and will provide that the primitive, natural areas can remain as the local population wishes—in their natural state—without cutting off public access where it is needed," said Jeannette Feehely, president of Citizens for Access to the Lakeshore, in a 2013 testimony before the House Natural Resources Committee.

"It is not a bill where the proponents give grudging, reluctant support, feeling compromised and unhappy about something. Rather, this is a bill wherein almost everyone involved has emerged quite satisfied."

The designation won't result in immediate or significant changes in management of the dunes, but it formalizes the status and management principles that will help protect Sleeping Bear for future generations. It also is a tool that will help market and position Sleeping Bear as a national treasure that beckons to Pure Michigan adventure enthusiasts.

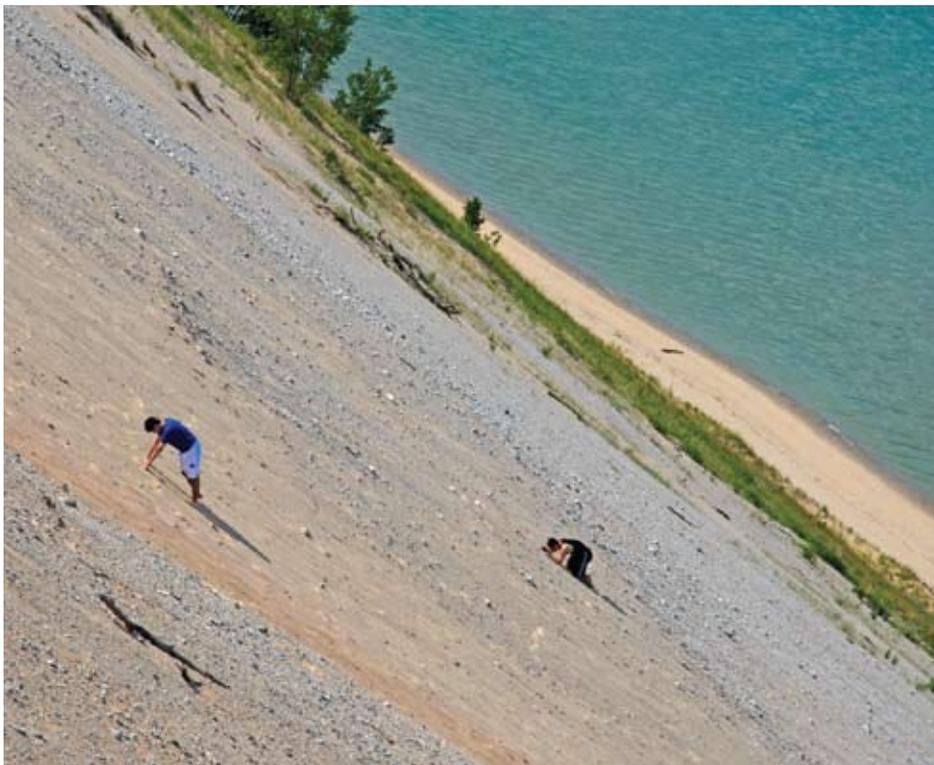
Tom Ulrich, deputy superintendent of the National Lakeshore, told MEC that seeing the wilderness bill become law will provide clarity about future management of the area, marking a new chapter of cooperation between local residents and park administrators.

"It has been such a longstanding issue at the park, and at some times in the park's history, a very contentious one," he said. He added that it will be "...nice to put it to bed and not have this kind of institutionalized tension between us and the stakeholders who didn't approve of the previous wilderness proposals."

Ulrich added that the bill's passage could help attract visitors looking for a particular brand of outdoor experience.

"One key to this is, once a place is designated as wilderness, that attracts visitors," he added. "People go to places because they're designated wilderness."

—By Andy McGlashen, MEC



It's a rare Michigander who hasn't underestimated how hard the climb back up "The Bear" is going to be!



Lansing, feds to create a green technology park behind the State Capitol (and a few blocks from our office!)

A parking lot behind the State Capitol building will be transformed into a public park, showcasing green infrastructure and renewable energy technologies with federal assistance from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Lansing was among three state capitals chosen for the help from the EPA’s Greening America’s Capitals program. The others are Madison, WI, and Olympia, WA.

The 14-acre park will feature renewable energy technologies and additional green space along with demonstration projects. It was chosen from a nationwide competition based on the city’s commitment to green design strategies. The program will be designed to also help implement storm water and climate mitigation techniques, while connecting pedestrian walkways and transit between state office buildings.

City staff and a consultant team will be chosen soon, and the EPA will help contract private services to assist with the project.

Since the park will be almost literally a stone’s throw from our offices, MEC expects to engage in the community involvement aspect of the design. We’d love to hear your thoughts!

—By Sarah Mullkoff, MEC

MEC connects WMU students, state lawmakers on Mackinac Straits oil pipeline issue

Dozens of Western Michigan University (WMU) students descended on the State Capitol and MEC’s office recently, asking state legislators to address Enbridge Energy Company’s aging oil pipeline beneath the Straits of Mackinac.

They weren’t protesting. They were learning the legislative process with the help of MEC staffers as part of a cooperative venture between MEC and the Environmental and Sustainability Studies program at WMU.

The lobbyists in training met with legislators from their home districts during their Feb. 26 visit, explaining the risks the pipeline presents and suggesting legislative action to address the issue.

The 1950s-era twin pipeline carries more than 20 million gallons of crude oil daily. It is likely to carry more and heavier oils as the Canadian tar sands oils are developed and shipped down the 1,900-mile pipeline network that includes the Straits lines.

Concern about a potentially catastrophic spill in the Mackinac Straits has grown since Enbridge’s million-gallon spill in the Kalamazoo River in 2010 and recent serious spills in the Gulf of Mexico, North Dakota and Arkansas.

Students asked the lawmakers to pressure federal regulators to require Enbridge to replace the pipeline or, failing that, to consider working to move the pipeline from federal to state jurisdiction.

The students reported that several legislators seemed supportive, a few seemed skeptical, and others were unaware that the pipeline even existed beneath Mighty Mac.

This was the second year of the cooperative program between MEC and WMU. ■



WMU students inside the Capitol, above, and at MEC offices for lunch and debriefing (below).

Latest state report on clean energy: Costs continue to drop—wind power at least 26 percent cheaper than coal

Electricity from renewable clean energy sources in Michigan is at least 26 percent less expensive than comparable coal-fired electricity, according to an annual analysis by the Michigan Public Service Commission recently released.

The report also says that state utilities are going to meet the 10 percent renewable electricity goal by the target date of 2015.

The report is especially relevant this year, as Governor Rick Snyder and the Michigan Legislature prepare to chart a clean energy strategy extending beyond 2015, when the current standards plateau. Snyder has

indicated he favors increasing both the renewable energy and energy efficiency goals, but he has not indicated how aggressively he wants the state to move in that direction.

The most recent clean energy contracts—primarily wind-powered electricity—are half as expensive as just five years ago, the report concludes. The report uses “levelized cost,” which accounts for initial capital, discount rate, as well as the costs of continuous operation, fuel, and maintenance. Renewable electricity costs are just under \$79 per kilowatt hour (KWh). Coal costs are \$133, according to the MPSC’s estimate, or \$107

using Consumers Energy’s figures.

But the \$79 figure may already be outdated, according to analysts. They note that the most recent wind contracts being inked in Michigan are coming in at costs below \$50 per KWh.

The report also notes that, “The clean and renewable energy sector continues to contribute to employment opportunities in Michigan. In 2013, generating facilities were constructed utilizing Michigan equipment and labor; contracts for utility scale projects, which will employ Michiganders, were approved; and solar pilot programs that utilize Michigan labor for installations continued and expanded.”

The figures do not take into account “externalized costs” that aren’t reflected in rates—for example, the health care expenses due to coal-burning pollutants are not factored into the figures.

The costs for clean electricity are so low that Consumers Energy is seeking to eliminate its renewable energy surcharge, and Detroit Edison has lowered theirs from \$3/month to 43 cents.

Will hard data dissuade defenders of the status quo from continuing to claim that renewable energy is too expensive? Of course not. Will it be a critical factor in Gov. Rick Snyder’s eventual proposal—expected late this year or early next—on where to go next with renewable energy development? We suspect so. ■



The cost of wind energy has beaten all expectations in Michigan.

Show me your budget

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Department of Environmental Quality

The governor's proposed Department of Environmental Quality budget comes in at just over \$504 million, of which \$40.8 million is from General Fund revenue—a 40.4% increase. The total budget is actually 2.5 percent less than the current year spending primarily because of a slowdown in allocations from a long-term bond for stormwater protection. Excluding that, there is almost \$16 million in new funding to protect the environment.

The budget's strategic investments are supported in the DEQ budget through the following priorities:

Recycling: \$1 million to increase residential recycling throughout Michigan. Initial efforts will focus on measurement and metric development, education and outreach, marketing, and market development for recycled goods.

Water quality and use: \$3.97 million to support the development of a statewide water strategy, beach monitoring, wetlands program, water use conflict resolution and permitting activities.

Hazardous waste: \$1.9 million to maintain the program that manages the 6,500 hazardous waste generators in Michigan.

Compliance assistance: \$1 million to increase compliance assistance activities.

Drinking water: \$2.5 million to be used as a federal match, allowing the department to leverage an additional \$12.5 million in federal funding.

Refined petroleum cleanup: \$3 million to increase support for underground storage tank cleanups. This money had previously been used for state debt service instead of the intended use for pollution cleanup.

Electronic documents: \$2.5 million (one time only spending) to convert old paper files into an electronic format and to provide online access to commonly requested files.

Invasive species: \$6 million to be split between the DNR, DEQ, and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. This new initiative is meant to target the growing threat of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species.

Stormwater: \$97 million to fund grants for stormwater and wastewater asset management plan development, stormwater management plan development, sewage collection and treatment plan development, and state-funded loans for water quality work.



Department of Natural Resources

The governor's proposed \$383 million DNR budget includes \$47 million in General Fund revenue, an 85 percent increase. It includes more than \$25 million in new funding to protect our natural resources.

Strategic investments include:

Invasive species: \$6 million to implement a comprehensive, coordinated regional response to prevent, detect, eradicate, and control invasive species.

Non-motorized trails: \$2.5 million to increase non-motorized trail development to make Michigan the "Trail State," including the Border-to-Border trail connecting Belle Isle through the Upper Peninsula to Wisconsin. The initiative would also focus on connecting trails to communities to help with rural economic development.

Forest management: \$4 million to enhance wild-fire protection and to hire 10 new foresters.

Great Lakes research: \$2 million to replace the department's 67-year-old Chinook research vessel for Great Lakes management and scientific research.

Continued on next page

Conservation officers: \$3.5 million to hire 25 additional DNR conservation officers to enforce laws to protect our natural resources, recreational safety and environmental protection.

Civilian Conservation Corps: \$1 million to provide Michigan youth and returning veterans with an employment experience for potential careers in natural resources.

State parks: \$3 million increase for a total of \$6.5 million, to repair and maintain our state parks. These additional funds will help to address the backlog of infrastructure needs.

Wetlands: \$3 million to protect critical wetlands and habitat through wetland restoration and acquisition.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

The governor's proposed budget comes in at \$82.5 million. That is a 2.9 percent increase, of which \$44.8 million is from the General Fund—a 10.6 percent hike.

Department budget highlights include:

- \$1.8 million increase for 12 new food and dairy inspectors.

- \$1.05 million in continuing funding for grants that support the distribution of Michigan-grown agricultural products through the development and growth of "food hubs."

- \$2 million increase for the Qualified Forestry Program for the "private forest development program" that works with landowners, local governments, and conservation districts to monitor forestry management plans.

Lead poisoning prevention

It is good to see that the governor's proposed budget includes \$1.25 million for lead poisoning prevention programs through the Department of Community Health. MEC was critical in getting the legislature to recognize the need and appropriate the necessary funds last year to address this environmental health issue.

The governor has put a lot in his budget for environmental and conservation advocates to fight for, and we should be glad that these initiatives have been included. It is much easier to fight to keep something in the budget than it is to try to put something new into the budget.

Let's get to work! ■

MEC OVERHEARD IN THE NEWS

"I'm working to get more lead poisoning prevention money into the state budget. I'm organizing a lead education day for my coalition to visit lawmakers in Lansing. I'm working on Green and Healthy Homes in Lansing and Detroit, asthma education and prevention, toxics in our products, pesticides, obesity prevention and infant mortality when I can."

—MEC's Tina Reynolds in a April Q&A in the Michigan Policy Network's Energy & Environment blog

"The roads and transportation network in Michigan have to be more than just moving as much traffic as we can as fast as we can; they have to enhance the quality of life. If that means bike lanes in certain areas or slowing down traffic in some parts of downtowns where it's advantageous for pedestrians and healthy vibrant downtowns and communities, then we need to do that. We like to look at the roads a little more comprehensively than just patching potholes or resurfacing highways."

—MEC's Hugh McDiarmid on WKAR's April 22 (Earth Day) Greening of the Great Lakes radio broadcast

"Without regulations designed for today's more intensive fracking, Michigan is putting its citizens and natural resources in harm's way and falling behind other states and provinces that have updated their rule... Our decades-old regulations no longer protect communities, water resources or first responders."

—MEC President Chris Kolb in an opinion piece in the March, 2014 issue of Greater Lansing Business Monthly

"The promise of affordable water rates is one tool Detroit can utilize to continue its economic recovery. That promise can't be kept if the money that should be spent on rate stabilization and infrastructure repairs is stolen."

—MEC's James Clift, in a March 22 Detroit Free Press opinion column on Detroit water department restructuring

"We want the DNR to get back to doing what they do best—managing the state's land."

—MEC's Brad Garmon in a February 8 Capital News Service story on legislation that would lift a cap on state land acquisition

"The state of Michigan's abysmal record on recycling stretches back decades, during which successive legislatures and gubernatorial administrations have ignored the important role that recycling can and should play in the state's waste disposal regime."

—McDiarmid in an April 14 Detroit News story on recycling

Sarah Mullkoff takes the reins of MEC's energy policy programs



Sarah Mullkoff

Sarah Mullkoff has settled into her new role as energy program director, as of Jan. 6, for the Michigan Environmental Council (MEC).

Mullkoff replaces David Gard, who left MEC after 11 years as energy program director. Gard is executive director of The Oberlin Project—a joint effort of the City of Oberlin, Oberlin College, and private and institutional partners to improve the



At work, she's Sarah. On the track, she's Mullicious Intent.

community's resilience, prosperity, and sustainability.

"We are pleased to have Sarah representing MEC's member groups at the table in Lansing," said MEC President Chris Kolb. "Virtually no aspect of our state's public policy affects Michiganders as directly as energy policy. Vital decisions—stemming from Governor Snyder's ongoing energy dialogue—will be made in 2014, and Sarah will be in the thick of that process."

Mullkoff, a West Bloomfield native, has worked in natural resource policy in a variety of capacities, most recently as energy and climate policy coordinator with the National Wildlife Federation. There, she advanced clean energy policies and carbon reduction campaigns for NWF's six-state Midwest region.

She previously worked for Clean Water Action as Michigan campaigns coordinator; serves on boards of directors for the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association and the Michigan Student Sustainability Coalition; and volunteers for social and environmental justice causes. She also serves on the steering committee for

RE-AMP, a 160-strong coalition of Midwest nonprofits and foundations working on energy policy and climate change.

Mullkoff is a graduate of Michigan State University's James Madison College with a major in International Relations and specialization in Science, Technology, Environment and Public Policy.

"I am thrilled with this opportunity to dive deep into Michigan energy policy at such a critical time for our state," said Mullkoff. "I want to help make positive changes for Michigan, and MEC is the place to do it."

Mullkoff is also a founding member and two-time captain of the Lansing Derby Vixens roller derby team where she is known by her alter ego, Mullicious Intent. People in the office generally don't talk back to her.

She lives on Lansing's east side with her boyfriend, a pair of dogs, and a pair of egg-laying chickens. She enjoys urban gardening, classical piano and outdoor recreation. ■

Represent!

Michigan legislators updated MEC member groups at our SE Michigan Regional Meeting in April. MEC hosts annual gatherings for our members in five regions of the state—Southeast, Mid, West, Northern and the Upper Peninsula. From left are State Rep. Jim Townsend; State Senators Coleman Young III, Hoon-Yung Hopgood and Steve Bieda; and State Rep. Jeff Irwin.



Michigan Environmental Council

602 W. Ionia Street
Lansing, MI 48933-1015

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MEC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

4 Towns Citizen Action Team
(248) 363-6128

Alliance for the Great Lakes
(616) 850-0745
www.greatlakes.org

Anglers of the Au Sable
(248) 651-5751
www.ausableanglers.org

Arab Community Center for Economic
and Social Services (ACCESS)
(313) 842-7010
www.accesscommunity.org

Au Sable River Watershed Committee
(989) 859-5822

Center for Automotive Research –
Automotive Communities Partnership
(734) 929-0488
acp.cargroup.org

Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical
Contamination
(989) 544-3318
www.caccmi.org

Citizens Climate Lobby – Michigan
(231) 499-6747
www.citizensclimatelobby.org

Clean Water Fund
(517) 203-0754
www.cleanwater.org/mi/

CLEARCorps/Detroit
(313) 924-4000
www.clearcorpsdetroit.org

Clinton River Watershed Council
(248) 601-0606
www.crwcc.org

Concerned Citizens of Acme Township
(616) 485-3749

ConservAmerica
(269) 651-1808
www.conservamerica.org

Detroit Audubon Society
(248) 354-5804
www.detroitaudubon.org

Detroit RiverFront Conservancy
(313) 566-8200
www.detroitriverfront.org

Dwight Lydell Chapter of the Izaak
Walton League of America
(616) 866-4769
www.michiganikes.org

East Michigan Environmental Action
Council
(313) 556-1702
www.emecac.org

Ecology Center
(734) 663-2400
www.ecocenter.org

Environment Michigan Research &
Policy Center
(734) 662-9797
www.environmentmichigan.org

Environmentally Concerned Citizens
of South Central Michigan
(517) 383-2261
www.eccscm.org

Friends of the Au Gres-Rifle Watershed
(517) 410-8959
farwatershed.com

Friends of the Cedar River Watershed
(231) 347-1519

Friends of the Detroit River
(734) 288-3889
www.detroitriver.org

Friends of the Jordan River Watershed,
Inc.
www.friendsofthejordan.org

Friends of the Rouge
(313) 792-9900
www.therouge.org

Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa
and Chippewa Indians
(231) 534-7500
gtbindians.org

Great Lakes Mediation
(616) 451-2177
greatlakesmediation.com

HARBOR Inc.
(231) 526-5060
www.harborinc.org

Huron River Watershed Council
(734) 769-5123
www.hrwc.org

Kalamazoo Environmental Council
(269) 344-0536
www.kalamazooenvironmentalcouncil.org

Kalamazoo River Cleanup Coalition
(269) 382-0490
www.kalrivercleanup.org

Lapeer Land Conservancy
(810) 664-5647
glblc.lapeer.org

League of Michigan Bicyclists
(517) 334-9100
www.lmb.org

League of Women Voters of Michigan
(517) 484-5383
www.lwvmi.org

Legacy Land Conservancy
(734) 302-5263
www.legacylandconservancy.org

Liaison for Inter-Neighborhood
Cooperation
(517) 349-6466

Lone Tree Council
(989) 686-6386
www.lonetreecouncil.com

Michigan Association of Railroad
Passengers, Inc.
(586) 726-9737
www.marp.org

Michigan Audubon Society
(517) 641-4277
www.michiganaudubon.org

Michigan Botanical Club
(313) 845-9728
www.michbotclub.org

Michigan Citizens Against Toxic Substances
(734) 587-3631
www.mcats.org

Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation
(231) 972-8856
www.savemewater.org

Michigan Coalition on the Environment
and Jewish Life (MI-COEJL)
(248) 642-5393
www.mi-coejl.org

Michigan Energy Options
(517) 337-0422
www.michiganenergyoptions.org

Michigan Interfaith Power and Light
(248) 808-2518
www.miipl.org

Michigan Land Trustees
(269) 343-4748
www.michiganlandtrust.org

Michigan Land Use Institute
(231) 941-6584
www.mlui.org

Michigan League of Conservation Voters
Education Fund
(734) 222-9650
www.michiganlcv.org

Michigan Mountain Biking Association
www.mmba.org

Michigan Natural Areas Council
(734) 975-7800
www.cyberspace.org/~mncac

Michigan Nature Association
(517) 655-5655
www.michigannature.org

Michigan Nurses Association
(517) 349-5640
www.minurses.org

Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance
(MOFFA)
www.moffa.org

Michigan Recycling Coalition
(517) 974-3672
www.michiganrecycles.org

Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance
(517) 485-6022
www.michigantrails.org

Michigan Trout Unlimited
(517) 599-5238
www.michigantu.org

Michigan Waterfront Alliance, Inc.
(989) 821-6661
www.mwai.org

Mid-Michigan Environmental Action
Council
(517) 292-3078
www.midmeac.org

Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
(MEEA)
(312) 587-8390
www.mwalliance.org

Muskegon Save Our Shoreline
(231) 670-6059
www.muskegonsaveourshoreline.org

NAACP–Michigan State Conference
(313) 835-9671
www.michigannaacp.org

Northern Michigan Environmental Action
Council
(231) 946-6931
www.nmeac.org

Preserve the Dunes
www.sosdunes.org

Romulus Environmentalists Care
About People (RECAP)
(734) 753-4320

Scenic Michigan
(231) 347-1171
www.scenicmichigan.org

Sierra Club, Michigan Chapter
(517) 484-2372
michigan.sierraclub.org

Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate
Heart of Mary
(734) 240-9700
www.ihsisters.org

Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy
(248) 601-2816
www.sixriversrlc.org

Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy
(734) 484-6565
www.smlcland.org

Stewardship Network
(734) 996-3190
www.stewardshipnetwork.org

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
(231) 347-1181
www.watershedcouncil.org

Transportation Riders United
(313) 963-8872
www.detroittransit.org

Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition
(906) 524-7899
www.upenvironment.org

Voices for Earth Justice
(248) 351-9001
www.voices4earth.org

West Michigan Environmental Action
Council
(616) 451-3051
www.wmeac.org