

Monica Day

733 Beverly Park Place Jackson, MI 49203
monicaday.o@gmail.com (517) 604-9500

Environmental professional with 25+ years of experience in nature and environmental program development and administration. Master of Science in Resource Development and Bachelor of Arts in Ecology. Grant work includes writing \$3.5M in awarded grants and administration of \$17 million grant-funded projects.

EDUCATION

MASTER OF SCIENCE, 2008 – MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, Department of Resource Development; East Lansing, Michigan. GPA 3.6/4.0

- Plan A Thesis Title: “A Tool for Assessing Citizen Deliberative Decisions about Contaminated Sites”
- Coursework: Community development, economics, qualitative research methods, statistics, restoration ecology, plant systematics, and watershed management.

BACHELOR OF ARTS, 1996 – KNOX COLLEGE. Galesburg, Illinois. Ecology Major. Class rank 93/229. GPA 3.2/4.0

EXPERIENCE

Current Position – **DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT** – ALBION COLLEGE, ALBION, MI.

January 2023 to September 2024 **WHITEHOUSE NATURE CENTER (WNC) DIRECTOR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CENTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (CSE)** – ALBION COLLEGE, ALBION, MI

Manage daily operation of the WNC, its interpretive building and 144 acres (trails, boundaries, and habitats). Manage boathouse operations including coordinating and leading canoe and kayak trips for classes, the college community and the public. Assist college faculty, the local school and community groups in their teaching that requires an outdoor, nature-based component. Oversee use of the nature center for college classes, field research, community outreach and service learning opportunities. Maintain records of student focused programming and services and implement community engagement plan and philosophy. Support the implementation of CSE's vision and strategic direction. Work with faculty director of CSE, alumni and corporate partners to sustain and expand CSE and WNC programs through stewardship in partnership with Institutional Advancement. Teach and lead core workshops. Advance and implement recurring annual community programming such as K-12 summer camps. Hire, train, develop, and evaluate student employees. Produce an annual report, coordinate an advisory committee, develop student learning outcomes and plans for assessment.

2022 – **PROJECT FELLOW & CAMPAIGN CANVASSER** VOTE SUE SHINK – JACKSON, MI
Door knocked across Jackson County to elect Sue Shink to State Senate. As Senator Shink's Progressive turnout fellow, engaged with statewide and national progressive teams that supported development of communication skills that turn out voters through effective in turning out voters: eloquence, active listening and interpersonal skills. Learned about candidate. Persuasively delivered information about political candidate. Started and maintained meaningful conversations with strangers. Sold without being aggressive. Worked with a team, trained volunteer canvassers, and fulfilled quotas within a specific time period.

2022 – **CONSULTANT** – ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY CENTER – CHICAGO, IL
Evaluate state of the manure waste management science in Michigan. Outline recommendations for reducing runoff pollution including measuring reductions. Based recommendations on expertise with Cooling The Hotspots GLRI funded initiative.

August 2018 to June 2022 – **FOSTER CARE NAVIGATOR** – THE JUDSON CENTER, ANN ARBOR, MI
Teach prospective adoptive and foster parents the core knowledge and skills necessary for licensure and care of children in foster care. Support and coach prospective and current foster parents. Serve as backbone staff for YouthNet Opportunities initiative, which connects foster youth and youth involved with juvenile justice with caring adults and employment. Staff statewide foster care hotline, 1855MICHKIDS, responding to inquiries and questions related to foster care. Assist relative caregivers with advocating for children in their care. Assist with recruitment and retention of foster parents.

2015–2018 – **WATER RESOURCES EDUCATOR** – MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
Develop programs, articles, webinars and support adoption of water stewardship behaviors among Michigan residents and communities to prevent Great Lakes water diversions, promote community and economic development, ecosystem and public health. Articles published first at MSU Extension have then been distributed by such outlets as AgProfessional.com; Brownfield Ag News; Country Partners Cooperative; Dairy Herd Magazine; Global Lake Ecological Observatory Network; Great Lakes Environment; Great Lakes Information Network; Huron River Watershed Council Blog; Ingham County Conservation District; Lake Scientist Facebook; Lone Tree Council; Michigan Farm News; Michigan Farm Bureau Facebook; Michigan Water Network; Midwestern BioAg Facebook; MLive; Morning Ag Clips; North Central Region Water Network website; NRCS Twitter; Pork Network; US Farmer; USDA Weekly Digest; VC Newsroom; Working for Farmer's Success. Quoted by Michigan Riparian; Food Quality and Safety; and Adrian Exponent.

Co author of Muenich, R. L., M. M. Kalcic, J. Winsten, K. Fisher, M. Day, G. O'Neil, Y. Wang and D. Scavia. 2017. Pay-for-performance conservation using SWAT highlights need for field-level agricultural-conservation. *Transitions of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers* 60(6):1925-1937. DOI: 10.13031/trans.12379. ([link](#))

Co-chair of International Association of Great Lakes Research session “Lessons from the Frontiers in Science for Nutrient Reduction from Agriculture in the WLEB” and American Society of Agriculture and Biological Engineers Journal *Pay for Performance Conservation using SWAT Highlights the Need for Field Level Agricultural Conservation*. Provided programming for 2,500 adults and youth.

MARCH 2010 TO January 2015 – **PRE-AWARD COORDINATOR/RESEARCH ADMINISTRATOR II** – SCHOOL OF PLANNING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY. EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN.

Assist faculty in development of grant proposals for discovery, teaching and engagement on the topic of leadership in the sustainable built environment. Tasks include:

- Sponsor identification and cultivation,
- Interpretation of sponsoring agency guidelines,
- Analyzing and negotiating terms and conditions of pre-awards,
- Writing, editing, and proposal budget development,
- Collaborate and work closely with agencies, staff, foundations, community partners and the School and College administration in shepherding proposals,
- Present on strategic grant seeking and writing.

Efforts increased submittal and awards rate by 20% over previous year.

Special project from 2011–2015: Led DNR–MSU Sustainable Park Development Partnership. This has become an ongoing program engaging seven classes and faculty across two units on campus to design, develop and renovate pivotal state parks and conduct development research needed at sites. 2014 academic year program is located at Belle Isle. The program continues, and receives awards under coordination of Dr. Kim.

2008 – 2010 – **GRANTS AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR/SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR** – LAND POLICY INSTITUTE, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY. EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN.

Accomplishments included:

- Identified, pursued and secured funding through foundations, federal and state agencies and private donors.
- Improved grant competitiveness of faculty and the revenue-generating capacity of programs through multidisciplinary and inter-university team building and proposal development support.
- Marshaled proposals yielding a total of \$950K in revenues. Proposal topics included: Energy Code Training, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Saginaw Bay Lake Huron Land Policy Program, brownfields training for public officials and youth, integrated assessment for siting wind turbines in coastal communities, and asset based community assessment.

2006 TO 2008 **GRANT COORDINATOR** – MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, GRANTS MANAGEMENT. LANSING, MICHIGAN.

Evaluated approximately 30 million dollars annually in grant requests by local units of government and state agencies to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Oversaw the implementation 1/3 of all funded projects (approximately 30 at any given time) totaling 14 million dollars for the acquisition of 1,000 acres and a variety of park facility development projects. Project management on development projects involved preparation of project agreements and review of project documents including leases and easements, engineered

plans and specifications, bidding procedures and contract awards, and approving project changes. Project management on acquisition projects involved project agreement preparation, providing guidance to applicants on contracting for appraisals, title insurance review, environmental review, and project changes.

Provided guidance to dozens of applicants each year in their preparation of applications, throughout implementation of grant-assisted projects, and in maintaining their long-term obligations. Conducted application preparation workshops and post completion inspections on 40 projects per year. Led unit in writing a mission statement, making improvements in program transparency and clarity of applicant guidance materials. Served on the Department's accessibility team.

2005 CONSULTANT – RUTH MOTT FOUNDATION. FLINT, MICHIGAN.

Facilitated "What is beautification?" visioning session and produced report.

2003 – 2005 RESEARCH ASSISTANT AND GRADUATE ASSISTANT – MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY. EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN.

2003 – 2005: Graduate assistant for six MSU environmental studies undergraduate courses: Water Resources Management, Introduction to Environmental Studies (4 separate courses), and Environmental Conflict Management. Graded assignments, quizzes, tests, and papers, conducted 5 lectures, and assisted students.

Summer 2004: Assisted in research to test National Issues Forums method for engaging citizens in making policy decisions about clean-up of contaminated sediments. The dioxin contaminated Tittabawassee River and floodplain in central Michigan was the location of the study. Research activities included canvassing 1,000 households in the contaminated river basin, administering surveys, assisting with 9 focus group meetings, and entering, analyzing and managing survey data. Findings suggest that National Issues Forums are an effective method for achieving consensus on needed clean up actions among affected residents.

2005: Assisted in the assembly of a comprehensive database of Michigan organic farms.

2001-2003 PRAIRIE RESTORATIONIST – MULTIPLE CONSULTING PROJECTS AROUND BOWLING GREEN, OHIO

1999-2003 SANDUSKY RIVER WATERSHED COORDINATOR – WSOS (WOOD SENECA OTTAWA AND SANDUSKY COUNTIES) COMMUNITY ACTION COMMISSION. FREMONT, OHIO.

Directed the activities of the Sandusky River Watershed Coalition. Oversaw fundraising and expenditure of \$100K annual budget, collaborative watershed planning with diverse stakeholders, and implementation of watershed restoration initiatives. Recruited and sustained 11-member board with diverse and sometimes conflicting interests, 300 coalition members and volunteers, and development of organizational structure.

- Raised \$39,000 in member donations. Wrote four grants with 75% success rate amounting to 1.8 million dollars for coalition support and watershed restoration. Maintained primary responsibility for completing grant activities according to schedule and spending within budget.

- Recruited, hired, trained and supervised three interns and one full-time source water protection specialist.
- Hosted dozens of watershed coalition meetings per year including committees, board, full membership and the general public. Prepared agendas, meeting notifications, public notice, newspaper, radio and televised updates. Recruited and sustained diverse stakeholder participation dialogue, education, and targeted action. Recruited educational speakers for meetings. Led development of organizational operating procedures, production of river clean ups, and watershed education festival.
- Led selection of watershed restoration projects and organized for their implementation. Conducted wetland and source water protection delineations and surveys.
- Served as a statewide expert on watershed coalition building, watershed group fundraising, and community watershed planning. Presented regularly at statewide watershed workshops and conferences. Ohio Watershed Academy certified.

1997-2000 **NATURALIST & ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS CONSULTANT** – CITY OF BOWLING GREEN DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION. BOWLING GREEN, OHIO.

Conducted environmental education programming including nature camp, family, and classroom programs. Led design and renovation of the nature education center. Developed tallgrass prairie and oak savanna restoration plan for the City's nature preserve. Organized and led restoration efforts through media outreach and collaboration with community organizations. Conducted botanical inventories, seed collection, cleaning, propagation, native planting and exotics removal. Successfully advocated for prescribed burn legislation to support city restoration efforts. Awarded "Best plant find of 1997" by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Database for finding a population of *Monarda punctata*, a previously state listed extirpated species.

1997-1999 **STREAM QUALITY MONITORING COORDINATOR** – OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF NATURAL AREAS AND PRESERVES. TIFFIN, OHIO.

Recruited, trained and sustained participation of 120 water quality monitoring volunteers on the Maumee and Sandusky Rivers. Other responsibilities included organizing a river festival, leading educational programs, supporting the advisory board, and serving on inter-agency water management and protection committees.

1997 **PRAIRIE SPECIALIST** – WOOD COUNTY PARK DISTRICT. BOWLING GREEN, OHIO.

Collected and processed native grass and wildflower seeds from local remnant sources for a prairie restoration project.

1996-1997 **SUBSTITUTE TEACHER** – KINGSBURY SCHOOL. OXFORD, MICHIGAN.

1996 **INTERPRETIVE RANGER INTERN** – YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK. WAWONA, CALIFORNIA.

Led interpretive hikes through giant sequoia old growth redwood forest for approximately 3,400 National Park visitors.

1995 **NATURALIST** – INDEPENDENCE OAKS COUNTY PARKS. CLARKSTON, MICHIGAN.

1986 – 1994 **ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR** – Kingsbury School Summer Camp. Oxford, Michigan.

Selected VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE, AWARDS & MEMBERSHIPS

2024 – **Certificate of Completion** – Midwest Invasive Species Network: Dame’s Rocket, Garlic Mustard, Invasive Bittersweet, Oak Wilt, Tree of Heaven, Norway Maple, Callery Pear, Black Locust, Black Alder, Asian Longhorned Beetle, Balsam Woolly Adelgid, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Spotted Lanternfly, Russian Olive, Black Jetbead, Common Buckthorn, European Privet, Glossy Buckthorn, Japanese Barberry, Bell’s Honeysuckle, Morrow’s Honeysuckle, Amur Honeysuckle, Multiflora Rose, Autumn Olive.

2023–present **Board Member** – Kalamazoo River Watershed Council

2023 – **Certified Educator** – Academy of Natural Resources 7/12/24; Water Quality and Biodiversity & Ecosystems MEECS 9/9/23; Project Learning Tree & Project Wild 5/18/23; and Project WET and Aquatic WILD training completed 5/12/23.

2023 – **Member** – Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE)

2023 – **Awardee** – Albion Business and Professional Women 2023 Person of Achievement

2020 – **Candidate Jackson County Drain Commissioner** – received 32,000+ votes

2018 – 2021 – **Commissioner** – City of Jackson Environmental Commission

2017–2021 – **Participant** – Active Jackson/Jackson Walkable Communities Coalition

2016 **Awardee** – Gordon Guyer Collaborative Excellence Award for Flint Water Crisis Response

2014 – 2018 – **Co-Coordinator** – The Stewardship Network Grand Raisin Cluster

2013 –2015 – **Member** – Board of Appeals, Tompkins Township

2015 – **Certificate of Completion** – Michigan Lake and Stream Leaders Program Completion

2010– **Graduate GLLA LAP** – Great Lakes Leadership Academy Advancement Program

2003 – **Certificate of Completion** – Workforce Management Solutions, Ltd Supervisor Development Series

2001 – **Certificate of Completion** – Ohio Watershed Academy for Watershed Coordinators

2000 – **Environmental Council Member** – Environmental Council Toledo Metropolitan Council of Governments

1997 – **Awardee of Best Plant Find 1997** – Awarded by the Ohio DNR Natural Features Inventory for identification of a population of previously extirpated species *Monarda punctata*/Spotted beebalm.

1996 – **Awardee** – **Downtown Revitalization Plan Award** – State of Illinois, Galesburg, IL