Appendix A: Community and Regional Resources

Part 1. Descriptions of Services

**Michigan Department of Environmental Quality**
http://www.deq.state.mi.us/

The Department of Environmental Quality’s mission is to drive improvements in environmental quality for the protection of public health and natural resources to benefit current and future generations. Agency programs are administered by 11 divisions, most of which have offices in the Upper Peninsula.

**Air Quality Division.** Helps business and industry comply with statutes that minimize adverse impacts on human health and the environment from air pollution sources. Identifies and reduces outdoor air pollution problems. Prevents significant deterioration of the air quality through air emission control programs, air monitoring, control strategy planning, permit issuance, and inspection of air emission sources. Offices: Lansing and U.P. (Marquette).

**Drinking Water and Radiological Protection Division.** Protects the health and welfare of Michigan residents and visitors directly or through environmental health services provided at local health departments. Oversees public and private water supplies, subdivisions, on-site sewage systems, campgrounds, public swimming pools, mobile home parks, medical waste, dry cleaning, and radiological health. Offices: Lansing and U.P. (Escanaba).

**Environmental Assistance Division.** Provides information to Michigan businesses, municipalities, institutions, and the public through the Environmental Assistance Center, the Community Right-to-Know program, and a variety of publications. Assists technical compliance, pollution prevention, waste reduction, clean air, innovative technology, and site redevelopment activities. Helps finance wastewater treatment facilities and site revitalization. Conducts outreach and training through workshops, seminars, and conferences. Office: Lansing.

**Environmental Response Division.** Oversees and provides financial assistance to local government for cleanups and revitalization of contaminated sites. Offers technical expertise, guidance, and compliance, emergency response, and public outreach assistance to private parties that undertake site cleanups. Provides liability protection to innocent parties for pre-existing site contamination. Offices: Lansing and U.P. (Marquette, Baraga, Crystal Falls, Newberry).

**Geological Survey Division.** Encourages conservation, wise development, and protection of natural resources such as fossil fuels, minerals, and ground-water through permits and oversight of oil, gas, and mineral production. Collects and disseminates geologic information—such as topographic and geologic maps, core and drilling samples, and oil, gas, and water well records—to industry and citizens. Offices: Lansing and U.P. (Marquette).

**Land and Water Management Division.** Reviews development and construction activities on the Great Lakes, inland lakes and streams, floodplains, wetlands, and sand dunes to minimize environmental destruction and protect public health and safety in compliance with environmental statutes. Issues permits for shoreline protection, marinas, roads, and dredging or filling of lakes, streams, and wetlands. Offices: Lansing and U.P. (Marquette, Crystal Falls, Escanaba, Ishpeming, Newberry).

**Office of the Great Lakes.** Lead agency within state government to develop policies and programs that protect, enhance, and manage the Great Lakes. Addresses water diversions, binational agreements, the Michigan Great Lakes Protection Fund and environmental education. Office: Lansing.

**Surface Water Quality Division.** Develops water quality standards, conducts assessments, and controls discharges to Michigan’s lakes, rivers, and streams through permits, investigation of complaints, and response to accidental releases. Develops plans and strategies, when necessary, to bring water quality up to standards. Works with communities to assure that municipalities construct and maintain adequate wastewater collection and treatment facilities. Promotes awareness of nonpoint source pollution and provides information on the use of controls to protect and enhance surface water quality. Offices: Lansing and U.P. (Marquette).

**Storage Tank Division.** Protects the environment and natural resources from leaking underground storage tanks through education, prevention, remediation, and compliance. Registers underground storage tanks and oversees corrective actions at sites contaminated by leaking tanks. Directs design, construction, installation, and operation of certain underground storage tanks to prevent the release of contaminants into the environment. Offices: Lansing and U.P. (Marquette, Newberry).

**Waste Management Division.** Administers preventive programs for controlling the discharge of hazardous and nonhazardous waste into the environment. Includes management and disposal of hazardous, liquid industrial and solid waste, scrap tires,
wastewater discharges to the groundwater, and land application of materials beneficial to the soil. Issues permits, licenses, and registrations to disposal facilities and transporters. Funds the collection of abandoned scrap tires and agricultural pesticides. Offices: Lansing and U.P. (Marquette).

**Michigan Department of Natural Resources**
http://www.dnr.state.mi.us/

The Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use, and enjoyment of the State’s natural resources for current and future generations. Its programs are administered by six divisions and an administrative services bureau.

**Fisheries Division.** Protects and enhances fish habitat and populations—plus other forms of aquatic life—in Michigan’s inland lakes, rivers, streams, and the Great Lakes. Introduces people to fishing through programs such as the annual Free Fishing Weekend and the Fishing-in-the-Parks Program. Provides weekly recorded fishing tips at 517/373-0908.

**Forest Management Division.** Protects, manages, and guides the use of forests for timber production, new tree growth, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Reducing tree loss caused by insects and diseases protects forest health. Fire management programs help prevent human-caused wildfires and protect personal property and forests. The division manages the state’s six state forests and network of snowmobile and ORV trails.

**Law Enforcement Division.** Conservation Officers enforce laws regarding fishing, hunting, land use, and operation of boats, snowmobiles, and off-road vehicles, as well as general local and state laws. The division assists national, state, and local enforcement, including undercover investigations, fire prevention, and wildlife rescue and recovery. They help locate lost hunters; provide emergency medical assistance; answer questions about conservation laws and regulations; conduct hunter, boater, and snowmobile safety courses; and frequently speak before community groups, clubs, and schools.

**Parks and Recreation Division.** Designs, develops, and manages Michigan’s recreation areas, state parks, and boating facilities. Park facilities include picnic areas and shelters, playgrounds, beach houses, boat launches, hiking and biking trails, visitor centers, historical sites, and modern and rustic campgrounds. The division also maintains most of the public boat launch sites on the Great Lakes, inland lakes, and rivers statewide, plus protected public mooring facilities on the Great Lakes.

**Land and Mineral Services Division.** Acquires and manages land for public recreational use, including lands for state parks, forests, recreation areas, game areas, and public access to lakes, rivers, and streams. Other responsibilities include managing 5.8 million acres of state mineral ownership by leasing the right to explore for and develop oil, gas, and other minerals; selling tax-reverted lands at public auctions; making payment in lieu of taxes to local units of government on state-owned land; maintaining the Michigan Resource Information System (MIRIS)—a computerized mapping and information system for land management and resource protection; and selling aerial photographs and a variety of maps.

**Wildlife Division.** Manages and protects 400 species of animals, including birds and mammals that are hunted (game species) and those that are protected from hunting (nongame species). Makes recommendations to the Director on hunting regulations, habitat management, game areas, public hunting access and shooting preserves, and protecting threatened and endangered plant and animal species. Manages the Nongame Wildlife Fund, funded mainly by donations and checkoffs on state income tax forms, for projects such as the reintroduction of peregrine falcons to Michigan.

**Michigan State University Extension**
http://www.msue.msu.edu/

Michigan State University Extension field agents serve every county in the state, supported by on-campus faculty, with educational programs that focus on agriculture and natural resources; children, youth, and families; and community and economic development. Statewide issues teams currently focus on three key issues: economic development, the environment, and children, youth, and families. Lack of land-use planning is an issue addressed jointly under economic development and the environment. Agriculture and natural resources education focuses on integrated pest management, animal management, waste management, and marketing of Michigan agricultural products. Other service areas are dairy, livestock, field crops, fruit, vegetables, forestry, Sea Grant, landscape ornamentals, turf, consumer horticulture, water quality, and floriculture.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service and Conservation Districts**
http://www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov/

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the U.S. Department of Agriculture agency that helps land users protect the nation’s
food-producing and water resources. It also assists land users with forestry, wildlife, and other natural resources issues. For nearly 60 years (until 1994), the agency was known as the Soil Conservation Service. Assistance to land users is provided through 82 conservation districts, which establish their own local policies and priorities, working in cooperation with the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts.

USDA conservation programs include the following (all administered by the NRCS except as noted): Conservation Technical Assistance, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Soil Survey Programs, Wetlands Reserve Program, Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, Conservation Plant Materials Center, Forestry Incentives Program, Watershed Surveys and Planning, Farmland Protection Program, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Operations, Rural Abandoned Mine Program, Conservation Farm Option, Resource Conservation and Development, Grazing Lands Conservation Program, Outreach for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers, Stewardship Incentive Program (administered by the USDA Forest Service), and the Conservation Reserve and Flood Risk Reduction Programs (administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency).

**Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development Council (UP RC&D)**

The Resource Conservation and Development Program of the Natural Resources Conservation Service is designed to accelerate the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, improve the general level of economic activity, and to enhance the environment and standard of living in authorized RC&D areas. It improves the capability of state, tribal, and local units of government and non-profit organizations in rural areas to plan, develop, and carry out resource conservation and development programs. Current program objectives focus on building sustainable communities and encouraging prudent use, management, and conservation of natural resources.

**Farm Service Agency**

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/

The Farm Service Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture serves American agriculture, the environment, and the American public through administration of farm commodity programs; farm ownership, operating, and emergency loans; conservation and environmental programs; emergency and disaster assistance; domestic and international food assistance, and international export credit programs. Local FSA field offices assist agricultural producers and landowners in achieving a high level of stewardship of soil, water, air, and wildlife resources on America’s farmland and ranches.

FSA is the lead agency for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for highly erodible and environmentally sensitive lands. The agency also works with NRCS and other USDA agencies to administer other conservation programs, including the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Flood Risk Reduction, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, Farmland Protection Program, Emergency Watershed Program Floodplain Easements, Conservation Farm Option, Resource Conservation and Development Program, and Forestry Incentives Program.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

http://www.usace.army.mil/lrd/gl.htm

The mission of the Great Lakes Regional Headquarters of the US Army Corps of Engineers in Chicago is to plan, design, construct, operate, and maintain navigational channels and flood control measures, and to provide disaster assistance to the region. The Corps implements environmental restoration projects and regulates shoreline construction and the filling of wetland areas. The Great Lakes office also provides technical support to the International Joint Commission. The Detroit District and Marquette and Sault Ste. Marie Field Offices serve the U.P.

The Corps of Engineers provides flood damage reduction, flood plain management, and watershed planning services to state and local governments. It jointly manages the dredge and fill regulatory program with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Projects to protect, restore, and enhance the Great Lakes coastal environment address shoreline erosion and protection, coastal wetlands, sea lamprey control, aquatic habitat restoration, Area of Concern Remedial Action Plans, evaluation of sediment remediation alternatives, restoration of water quality, and control of aquatic plants. The Planning Assistance to States program helps states and tribes evaluate potential water resources projects and ecosystem management options. The Great Lakes Hydraulics and Hydrology Branch of the Detroit District monitors and forecasts water levels and distributes publications on such topics as low-cost shore protection and recognizing wetlands.

**Regional Planning Agencies**

Three regional planning agencies serve the Upper Peninsula: Western U.P. Planning and Development Regional Commission (WUPPDR), Central U.P. Planning and Development (CUPPAD), and Eastern...
U.P. Regional Planning and Development Commission. Their missions are to support economic and community development, protection of the environment, and improvement of the quality of life in their regions by assisting local governments, businesses, and organizations. Areas of concern include recreation, tourism, transportation, public infrastructure improvements, housing needs, master plans, historic preservation, solid waste management, and business development assistance. The regional planning offices maintain databases of socioeconomic information, perform computerized mapping, prepare and administer grant applications, administer revolving loan funds, and serve as liaisons between local, state, and federal governments on various issues.

**County, District, and Tribal Health Departments**

The Upper Peninsula is served by six county or district (multi-county) health departments. These offices provide many services, but their environmental health divisions focus on public health concerns related to the environment.

The typical duties of environmental health sanitarians include well and septic system site investigations and permits; investigation of suspected drinking water contamination; inspections of food-service establishments, campgrounds, mobile home parks, public swimming pools, and bathing beaches; insect and rodent control; nuisance investigation; indoor air quality (including radon); environmental planning; and subdivision control.

Local health departments maintain records on private wells and provide services, such as the Michigan Source Water Assessment Program, for Type II and III non-community public water supplies (examples include schools, workplaces, and campgrounds). The Drinking Water and Radiological Protection Division of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, formerly part of the Michigan Department of Public Health, regulates community public water supplies that serve at least 25 people or 15 living units year round.

Federal and tribal staff share responsibility for providing tribal health and environmental services. The Indian Health Service is a federal agency that provides health services to Native Americans directly or by contract with outside services. The Rhinelander and Sault Ste. Marie district offices are staffed by sanitarians and engineers whose responsibilities are similar to those of their counterparts at local/district health departments and the MDEQ Drinking Water and Radiological Protection Division. Most tribes have environmental specialists, planners, or other professional staff who provide environmental services. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which administers federal laws governing environmental health services on reservations, has a tribal liaison for the region based in Traverse City.

**Michigan Rural Water Association**

http://www.mrwa.org/

The Michigan Rural Water Association is a member of the National Rural Water Association, a nonprofit federation of State Rural Water Associations. The MRWA’s mission is to provide Michigan water and wastewater utility members with resources, education, representation, and networking in order to enhance the quality of services to those members’ customers. Services to member utilities include training programs and on-site assistance in areas of operation, maintenance, finance, and governance. Examples of current programs include development of groundwater protection plans and assistance with water utility Consumer Confidence Reports, newly required by the Safe Drinking Water Act.

**Michigan Tech GEM Center for Science and Environmental Outreach**

http://emmap.mtu.edu/gem

The GEM Center for Science and Environmental Outreach at Michigan Technological University is a nonprofit team of professionals and volunteers who provide objective information, educational programs, and technical expertise (including GIS assistance) to schools, organizations, governments, and individuals to promote awareness and informed personal actions and public policy concerning regional environmental issues.

In partnership with natural resources agencies, intermediate school districts, and other educators across the U.P., the Center delivers a wide variety of school programs and teacher-training workshops that feature curricula on water (including rivers, wetlands, groundwater, and Lake Superior), forests, solid waste management, and other science and environmental topics.

Current community programs include preparing a guide to drinking water quality in the U.P. and helping to establish a western U.P. regional planning roundtable. The Center is also facilitating Michigan’s Source Water Assessment Program for the U.P. and compiling baseline sustainability data and indicators for the Lake Superior basin.