



Institute for Public Policy  
and Social Research  
**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

IPPSR PUBLIC POLICY FORUM SERIES 2021- MARCH 24, 2021

## **WHEN DAMS BREAK: PREVENTING WATER SAFETY CRISES IN MICHIGAN**



### **DOUG JESTER, MICHIGAN DAM SAFETY TASK FORCE VICE CHAIR, PARTNER, 5 LAKES ENERGY**

Prior to joining 5 Lakes Energy, Doug Jester served as senior energy policy advisor at the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor, and Economic Growth. In that capacity, he applied scientific, engineering, and economic principles to the formation and adoption of energy policies for the state of Michigan.

He also served in various capacities at the Michigan Departments of Natural Resources (DNR) and Environmental Quality (DEQ) including chief information and technology officer at the DEQ and Director of Strategic Planning at the DNR. While at the DNR he conceived of and led the efforts to develop Michigan's first-in-the-world automated system to issue hunting and fishing licenses for which he was recognized by the Smithsonian Museum and ComputerWorld Magazine in 1994. His work with the Los Alamos National Laboratory was used to develop ecosystem simulation models for managing Great Lakes fisheries and water quality.

Beyond his state of Michigan experience, Jester was Director of Government Application Solutions for MCI, Chief Technology Officer of the Board of Automated License Systems, Inc. of which he was a member, a multi-year consultant to Verizon where he developed the company's Smart Grid product architecture, design and implementation plans; and managing editor of the North American Journal of Fisheries Management for the American Fisheries Society.

He holds degrees from New Mexico State University and Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University. He is an adjunct faculty member at Michigan State University.



## **BILL RUSTEM, MICHIGAN DAM SAFETY TASK FORCE MEMBER**

Bill Rustem was Chief Staff Advisor on Environmental Matters in the Administration of Gov. William G. Milliken, was Director of Strategy for the Office of Strategic Policy under Gov. Rick Snyder and is retired President and Chief Executive Officer of Public Sector Consultants.

Following his state service, he became the first executive director of the Center for the Great Lakes in Chicago. He coordinated the petition drive and campaign in 1976 for the Michigan “Bottle Bill,” and the 1984 statewide campaign for the constitutional amendment creating a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.

At Public Sector Consultants, Rustem directed studies on the status of Michigan cities, waste water treatment needs, recycling, and land use. He has chaired or been the principal staff for statewide task forces on the Department of Natural Resources reorganization, the MSU Museum as well as for the Michigan Land Use Leadership Council.

He has also served as program director for the People and Land Project, a grantmaking program at the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and serves on the Board of Directors for Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance. Most recently, Rustem was the Michigan Environmental Council’s 2020 Milliken Award Winner, for an impact on policy grounded in partnership, persistence and passion.



## **LUKE TRUMBLE, SUPERVISOR, DAM SAFETY UNIT, MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES AND ENERGY**

Luke Trumble, Supervisor, Dam Safety Unit, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy

After graduating from MSU in 2007, Trumble spent 2 1/2 years in the private sector as a consulting engineer. He has recently transitioned from the private sector into state government and regulation.

He started his career with the Department of Energy, Labor, and Economic Growth as a public utilities engineer in the Electric Reliability Division. He has since transferred to the Department of Environmental Quality to work as an Environmental Engineer in the Hydrologic Studies and Dam Safety Unit of the Water Resources Division.

**Sponsor Leadership – Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR), College of Social Science, Michigan State University**



**MATT GROSSMANN, DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND SOCIAL RESEARCH (IPPSR), PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

A nationally known political scientist, Dr. Matt Grossmann is an expert on American politics and government whose research spans national and state policymaking, election campaigns, interest groups, and political parties. Dr. Grossmann has authored numerous journal articles on policy change, political party networks, the legislative process and public opinion. His latest book, *Red State Blues* was recently made available through Cambridge University Press. He is also editor of the volume *New Directions in Interest Group Politics*, from Routledge.

Grossmann serves as a Senior Fellow at the Niskanen Center in Washington, DC, host of The Science of Politics Podcast and a regular contributor at FiveThirtyEight. He has published op-eds in The New York Times and The Washington Post and in social science journals.

Under Grossmann's leadership since January 2016, IPPSR added more than 60 affiliated faculty members, built a student Policy Fellows Program while expanding Public Policy Forums, public outreach and leadership training. He also created a policy-relevant research search engine, the Correlates of State Policy online database, and an online survey panel of political insiders.



**ARNOLD WEINFELD, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND SOCIAL RESEARCH (IPPSR)**

Arnold Weinfeld is Associate Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) at Michigan State University as well as Director for Workforce and Economic Development Partnerships for the Office of Public Engagement and Scholarship within University Outreach and Engagement.

Prior to joining MSU, Weinfeld served as CEO of the Prima Civitas Foundation, a community and economic development non-profit organization. He also has worked for the Michigan Municipal League where he served in a number of roles and co-founded the Michigan Sense of Place Council. Weinfeld began his career with the Michigan House of Representatives where he worked as a legislative aide, policy analyst and policy director.

**UPCOMING FORUM**

Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at Noon on Zoom

**K-12 Schools: Moving Past Pandemic Recovery**

**Presentations and additional resources can be found at [ippsr.msu.edu](https://ippsr.msu.edu)**

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