

September GRAC Membership Meeting

Program

Date: Monday, September 25, 2017

Speaker: Helen Taylor, Michigan Director of The Nature Conservancy

Presentation: The Changing Scale of Conservation

Ms. Taylor discusses the changing scale of conservation as organizations, communities and leaders are faced with increasingly complex problems and solutions in the use and protection of natural resources. She will describe how science and market-based strategies, policies, and practices, are expanding the scope and impact of conservation work from site to systems, to sustainably achieve the long-term health of both places we care about and systems as large as the Great Lakes.

Helen Taylor has spent more than 27 years working on Great Lakes protection, policy, and conservation. She joined the Conservancy in 1996 to lead its Great Lakes Program, and since 1999 has served as state director of its Michigan program as well as serving on the board of directors of the Conservancy's Great Lakes Project.

Prior to joining the Conservancy in 1996, Helen spent nine years working in the environmental policy field with a concentration in Great Lakes issues, pollution prevention, waste, and public involvement. Her project work focused on facilitating and mediating environmental initiatives, partnerships, and policies; working as a consultant to industry; government (municipalities, state and federal agencies), and environmental organizations.

Helen was appointed by Governor Rick Snyder to serve as a Commissioner and his representative on the Great Lakes Commission, and was recently appointed to Snyder's 21st Century Infrastructure Commission. She has also held gubernatorial appointments to the Michigan Land Use Leadership Council in 2003 and Agriculture Preservation Fund Board from 2004 to 2007.

Currently, Helen serves on the board of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation; editorial board of advisors for Bridge Magazine; External Advisory Boards of University of Michigan's Erb Institute for Global Sustainable Enterprise and Graham Sustainability Institute, and the board of Heart of the Lakes Center for Land Conservation Policy. Helen holds a degree in philosophy from Northwestern University where she graduated with honors.