

## Infrastructure Innovation Tour: Detroit Panel

*Dialogue hosted by Wayne State University & URC*

**Tuesday, June 25, 2019 | 1:00 PM**



**Dr. Carol J. Miller, PhD, PE, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Director of Healthy Urban Waters at Wayne State University**

Dr. Miller's research is centered on the interface between humans and the natural environment – especially within urban settings of the Great Lakes watershed. Contaminant transport is a recurring element of her research, including source water issues, landfill leachates, containment barriers, and the fragility of the human/infrastructure interface. She is the U.S. Chair of the Great Lakes Science Advisory Board of the International Joint Commission.



**Dr. Leo C. Kempel, Dean, Michigan State University College of Engineering, professor of electrical and computer engineering**

Dr. Kempel leads nine academic programs and has strengthened the college's innovation in automotive, composite materials, energy, health care technologies, pavement preservation, and security. Under his leadership, two new academic departments have been established – the Department of Biomedical Engineering and the Department of Computational Mathematics, Science and Engineering.



**Dr. Peter Adriaens, PhD, PE, BCEEM, Professor of Environmental Engineering, Finance and Entrepreneurship at the University of Michigan**

Dr. Adriaens directs the Center and Master of Engineering program in Smart Infrastructure Finance, focused on data platforms and efficient financing mechanisms for public and private infrastructure and asset management. His research and teaching focus on data-driven (digital) business and finance models for infrastructure, blockchain applications for smart cities, and water risk pricing in securities. He is co-founder of Equarius Risk Analytics, a financial technology firm focused on pricing and indexing water risk using waterBeta® data platforms.



**Kerry C. Duggan, Partner, Sustainability @ RIDGE-LANE LP and Founder & Principal, SustainabiliD, LLC.**

Ms. Duggan is a Partner in the Sustainability Practice of RIDGE-LANE LP and Founder and Principal of SustainabiliD, LLC. Duggan previously served as Deputy Director for Policy in the Office of Vice President Joe Biden, providing direct advice on energy, environment, and climate policy issues. She simultaneously served as President Barack Obama's Deputy Director of the White House Detroit Federal Working Group to provide capacity, technical assistance and resources to support Detroit's revitalization.



**Joseph Sawasky, President & CEO of Merit Network, Inc.**

Merit is a non-profit corporation owned and governed by Michigan's public universities, providing high-performance networking, IT security solutions, and community-building services to



Michigan's public universities, colleges, K-12 organizations, libraries, state government, healthcare, and other non-profit organizations. Prior to joining Merit, Sawasky was the Chief Information Officer at Wayne State University.



**Dr. Britany Affolter-Caine, URC Executive Director**

Dr. Affolter-Caine is the executive director of Michigan's University Research Corridor (URC), one of the nation's top university innovation clusters, where she also served as the program manager from 2012-2018. Previous to the URC, Affolter-Caine was a director of talent initiatives for Ann Arbor SPARK and the Detroit Regional Chamber, and senior research associate for the Metropolitan Policy Program of the Brookings Institution on the Great Lakes Economic Initiative.



**Eric Pardini, Senior Consultant, Public Sector Consultants**

Pardini works on the energy and environment team, specializing in energy issues. His research at PSC has focused on issues such as electric reliability and resource adequacy, state and federal funding for low-income energy assistance, renewable energy, and electric market restructuring. Prior to joining PSC in 2014, Eric worked for Consumers Energy in their State Government Affairs Office.



**Kirk T. Steudle, Senior Vice President of Econolite Systems**

Econolite Systems is focused on excellence in Intelligent Transportation System design, deployment, operations and maintenance. As former director of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), Steudle successfully managed MDOT's \$4.7 billion-dollar budget and was responsible for the construction, maintenance, and operation of nearly 10,000 miles of Michigan's highways, over 4,000 highway bridges and 2,700 employees.



**Dennis P. Sugrue, P.E., lieutenant colonel, U.S. Army; Ph.D. candidate, the University of Michigan**

Sugrue is a career Army officer, serving in a variety of combat and engineering units including two combat tours to Afghanistan and a peacekeeping mission in Kosovo. Recently, he was the Commander of Detroit District of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). He is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Michigan Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Upon completion of his degree he will return to West Point as an assistant professor.



**MODERATOR:**

**Elizabeth Riggs, Managing Director, Freshwater Coast Solutions, LLC**

With 25 years of experience working at the nexus of science, policy, and management, Elizabeth Riggs is a well-regarded expert in areas related to the environment, policy, government, and advocacy at local, state, and national levels. She is a frequent speaker, writer, and consultant for partners including the University of Michigan, Water Environment & Research Foundation, State of Michigan, and U.S. EPA.

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