

Cara M. Decker

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Career

Summary: Environmental engineer with over a decade of employment experience in local government, Federal service, and private industry. Extensive experience in environmental compliance, watershed management, nuclear power, field work, training, and leadership.

Experience:

Grand Valley Metro Council and the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds

Grand Rapids, MI
11/2023-Present

Director of Environmental Programs

- Manage the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds and implement an approved Nine Element Watershed Management Plan. Organize and run regular board and committee meetings. Annually project fiscal needs to determine the MS4 program's budget, provide cost estimates, write contracts, and set rates for clients. Attend public hearings and public meetings as a subject matter expert.
Seek and apply for grant funding and manage grant programs, including management of federal funds. Work with EPA to administer the \$1M Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program to the GR/Kentwood statistical area.
Develop, present, and facilitate custom training presentations to municipal employees, law enforcement, emergency response personnel, and elected officials depending on their environmental needs
Manage and coordinate the performance of internal staff, and outside contractors, and supervise interns.
Develop, present, and facilitate custom training presentations to municipal employees, law enforcement, emergency response personnel, and elected officials depending on their environmental needs.

Stormwater Program Coordinator

8/2017-10/2023

- Provided strategic program oversight of NPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) permits for 23 communities in West Michigan. Executed a regional approach to comply with individual permit requirements, inspect outfalls, storm drains and other infrastructure, analyze water quality samples. Facilitate permit review and renewal cycles, responsible for creating water quality sampling plans for the MS4s, responsible for all permit reporting to MI EGLE, review, write, and edit Stormwater Management Plans and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Initiatives, including technical design criteria for site development plans for all communities. Guided employees and participated in multiple strategic planning sessions resulting in updates to the organization's strategic plan and logic model.
Interfaced with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide feedback on their Equitable Resilience Builder tool to write a Watershed Resilience Plan. Acted as a subject matter expert and technical resource for residential homeowners and small businesses seeking to implement green infrastructure practices, and stood up and expanded watershed-wide educational programs like Adopt a Drain. Managed and created content for the organization's website and social media accounts.

Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY)

Portsmouth, VA

Environmental Engineer

6/2013-6/2016

- Managed the facility NPDES permit, executed the Clean Water Program to comply with permit and mission requirements, managed the facility Part B permit (RCRA), managed some of the facility's air permits.
Environmental Engineer for La Jolla Conversion Project, responsible for coordination and implementation for all environmental processes during the planning and availability of the project, briefed senior management and commanding officers on shipyard environmental and safety programs. Developed, presented, and facilitated an inter-departmental training for the environmental department to improve communication and teamwork with project and safety departments

Nuclear Engineer, Mixed Waste Division

7/2011-6/2013

- Engineering Specialist and Technical Advisor for mixed waste at Controlled Industrial Facilities. Managed mixed waste that contained RCRA hazardous constituents, radioactive material, PCB's and asbestos and the applicable waste manifests and hazardous material inventories.

Alcoa; Alcoa Fastening Systems - Newbury Park Operations

Newbury Park, CA

Environmental, Health and Safety Professional

2/2011-6/2011

- Managed environmental permits and safety programs at two different industrial facilities. Worked with many

staff whose second language was English or didn't speak English at all.

Education: **Michigan Technological University** (MTU), Houghton, MI
B.S. Environmental Engineering
International Sustainable Development Certificate

GPA: 3.17
December 2010

Other Experience:

MWEA Stormwater and Watershed Committee

6/2023-Present

As Secretary of this committee, I meet regularly with leadership to convene watershed and stormwater managers from across the state, and assist in the planning of an annual seminar for industry professionals.

Skills: Interpersonal skills and presenting to large audiences, MS Office (extensive experience with Excel, Word, Power Point and Access), MS Sharepoint, MS One Drive, MS Teams, Zoom, and experience with other virtual meeting platforms

Hobbies: Volunteering and planting trees with Friends of Grand Rapids Parks, CrossFit, meeting new people, learning new languages, camping, gardening, reading world travel.