Speaker Bios

**Dave Boerger** is a consultant with SEMCOG and his role is to help 158 member local governments in SE Michigan improve their fiscal and operational effectiveness via performance measurement, efficiency and collaborative techniques. Dave has a wealth of experience in the private, public and academic sectors, including 27 years as an executive with Ford Motor Company, 7 years of public service including Mayor of the City of Orchard Lake, Council Member, Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Commission, Fire Board and Public Transit Authority, plus 5 years in academia at Kettering University in Flint. Dave also coordinates the activities of three other consultants who perform similar work for SEMCOG members. Dave has an MBA in Finance from the University of Michigan, an Engineering degree from General Motors Institute and executive development training at Duke, MIT and Stanford. He can be contacted at 248-875-7120 or boerger@semcog.org.

**Thomas R. Curran, Jr.** is the Chief Executive Officer of the Michigan Municipal Services Authority (MMSA). The MMSA is an organization providing shared services and solutions to local units of government throughout the State of Michigan. Tom has over thirty years of global business experience, executive leadership, and legal expertise. Most recently, Tom served as Director of Portfolio Company Management for Alticor Corporate Enterprises and Vice President of Global Business Development for Metagenics Inc. Mr. Curran is the former Chairman of the Board and CEO of Interleukin Genetics, a molecular diagnostics company, based in metro Boston. He is the former Chief Legal Officer for Access Business Group LLC, a manufacturing and distribution company and wholly owned subsidiary of Alticor Inc. Tom holds a Bachelor of Arts from Providence College, a Master of International Management from the Thunderbird School of Global Management, and a Juris Doctorate from Suffolk University Law School.

**Darnell Earley** was appointed by Governor Rick Snyder as the Emergency Manager in Flint, Michigan on October 8, 2013 under Public Act 436. Darnell Earley received a Master of Public Administration degree from Western Michigan University and a Bachelor of Science degree from Grand Valley State University. He later served as an Adjunct Professor for the School of Public Administration at Grand Valley where he taught graduate and undergraduate courses in public budgeting and financial administration, workplace diversity, and human services organizational development. Mr. Earley has served in numerous senior executive management positions in Michigan. He was Director of Community Development, for the Urban League, in Muskegon, Michigan from 1978–1981. He also served as Administrative Assistant to the County Administrator/EOO Officer for Muskegon County, Michigan until 1986. In 1986, Mr. Earley was appointed Township Manager of Buena Vista Charter Township in Michigan. In 1988, he was an appointee of the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives where he was responsible for supervising and directing a 45-member professional staff of policy analysts, attorneys, and clerical support personnel, as Director of Research and Public Policy for the Democratic Caucus.

Mr. Earley also held the positions of Budget Director and Deputy County Controller in Ingham County, Michigan from 1993–2001. He was appointed City Administrator of Flint, Michigan in April of 2001. Due to a vacancy in the Office of the Mayor, Mr. Earley was sworn in as Temporary Mayor in March of 2002 where he was responsible for the full operation of the city’s services. He served in that capacity until August 2002, and returned to City Administrator until July of 2004. Mr. Earley joined the City of Saginaw as the Deputy City Manager/Interim Director of Fiscal Services in August of 2004. In September 2005, he was appointed Interim City Manager. In June of 2006 he was appointed as City Manager where he served until his appointment as Flint’s Emergency Manager in October, 2013.
**John B. Elsinga** is the Township Manager for Delhi Charter Township, a residential community of 25,000, located in Holt, Michigan bordering Michigan State University. John has over thirty-six years of municipal experience beginning with the Board of Public Works in Holland, Michigan then transferring to Delhi Charter Township in 1977 as Superintendent of their Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW). In 1990, he was promoted to Director of Public Services and then appointed in 1996 to his current position of Township Manager. He is a member of the Michigan Townships Association, the Michigan Local Government Management Association and the International City/County Management Association and the Michigan Municipal League. Mr. Elsinga earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Calvin College and his Masters in Management from Aquinas College.

**Frank Fisher** joined the Waterford Township Department of Public Works in 2001 with a primary focus on the implementation of a Geographic Information System (GIS) and Asset Management System for the Department of Public Works. He has been involved with the continued development and integration of the GIS and Asset Management System with other core applications, such as Enterprise Content Management (ECM) and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA). Since 2011, he has also served in the role of GIS Manager for Waterford Township. As GIS Manager he is responsible for the maintenance and development of GIS based data and applications used by police, fire and other township departments. Frank earned both a Bachelor of Science in Resource Ecology in 2001 and a Master of Public Administration in 2011 from the University of Michigan–Flint.

**Larry Hummel** is an Engineer–Manager with the Van Buren County Road Commission. Previously he was with the Road Commission for Montcalm County, Michigan Department of Transportation. He has worked for 20 in this business. Larry received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Michigan Technological University and a Master’s in Public Administration from Western Michigan University.

**Phillip J. Moore** is the City Manager of the City of Alma. Phillip has worked for the City of Alma for 22 years; the last ten have been as City Manager. He received a B.A. in mathematics from Earlham College and a M.S. in Public Affairs and Policy from Carnegie-Mellon University.

**David Schweikhardt** is a Professor specializing in agricultural policy, trade policy and law in the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics at Michigan State University. A native of Indiana, he received a Bachelor of Science degree with Highest Distinction in agricultural economics from Purdue University in 1980, a Master of Science in agricultural economics from Michigan State University in 1983, and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Michigan State in 1989. He received a law degree from Michigan State in 2004 and is a member of the State Bar of Michigan. From 1988 to 1992, he was an Assistant Professor of agricultural economics at Mississippi State University. His teaching responsibilities included courses in agricultural policy and international trade policy. His research and extension work has focused on agricultural and trade policy, including the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and all U.S. farm bills since 1990.
Mary Schulz joined the MLGBC as Project Director in September 2011. Mary has been a Visiting Specialist in the Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics Department at Michigan State University since 1997. Prior to joining the faculty at MSU, Mary was a Federal Affairs Representative for the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (NAMIC) & Crop Insurance Research Bureau (CIRB), and was a Legislative Assistant to Congressman Nick Smith, in Washington, DC. Mary received her B.A. in Economic and M.S. in Agricultural Economics from Michigan State University.

Dr. Eric Scorsone is a faculty member and work group leader of the Government and Public Policy Team in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics at Michigan State University. His area of focus and expertise is in state and local public finance, intergovernmental cooperation, data driven decision making and financial emergencies. He spent 2010 as the Senior Economist for the Michigan Senate Fiscal Agency. Prior to MSU, he served as an Assistant Professor at the University of Kentucky. He has also served as an Economist in the Colorado Governor’s Office and a Senior Financial Analyst for the city of Aurora, CO. His Ph.D. is from Colorado State University and he has an M.S. from Michigan State University and a B.B.A from Loyola University of Chicago. He has worked internationally in Macedonia, Indonesia, and Thailand and at the University of Valencia in Spain and the University of Bologna in Italy.

Dayne Walling is serving in his second term as the Mayor of the City of Flint. His vision of a sustainable 21st Century community has attracted new investments and energy to the difficult challenge of turning Flint around. He is committed to bringing new jobs, making neighborhoods safe, and supporting great schools in Flint and across Michigan. Under his leadership, the City of Flint has adopted its first comprehensive master plan in more than 50 years—and the plan has a focus on sustainability, equity, neighborhoods, youth and the arts.

Mayor Walling serves on the Executive Committee for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and is Chairman of the national Manufacturing Alliance of Communities in addition to being active in many policy networks including the Michigan Urban Core Mayors, Michigan Green Communities, and Michigan Corps. His past professional experience includes policy and advocacy work for the Genesee County Land Bank’s affiliated Genesee Institute, Flint Club, State Voices, and the Urban Coalition of Minnesota.

Mayor Walling’s higher education includes: Bachelor of Arts in Social Relations from James Madison College at Michigan State University; a second Bachelor of Arts in Modern History from St. Peter’s College, University of Oxford; and a Master of Arts in Urban Studies from Goldsmith’s College, University of London. He also pursued doctoral studies in Geography at the University of Minnesota, with a fellowship from the National Science Foundation. He was a Truman and Rhodes Scholar.