

Douglas McLaughlin

Since 2002, Doug has been a Principal Research Scientist at the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, Inc. (NCASI), a non-profit environmental research organization funded by the forest products industry. He is based near Kalamazoo, Michigan where he provides scientific expertise and research that address questions affecting surface water quality and management. Over the last several years, he has focused on the science underpinning the development of numeric water quality criteria for nutrients and other pollutants. These criteria are a central part of water quality management in the U.S. under the Clean Water Act, and represent potentially important sustainability goals for guiding human interactions with aquatic ecosystems.



Doug began his career in 1985 as an environmental scientist with Fort Howard Corporation in Green Bay after completing a B.S. in Biological Resources Management and an M.S. in Aquatic Biology under the guidance of H.J. “Bud” Harris. At Fort Howard, he worked on projects related to characterizing and improving wastewater quality, and led several studies designed to better understand and reduce concentrations of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in mill wastewater. His work on PCBs led him to pursue studies in the Land Resources program of the Institute for Environmental Studies (now the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies) at UW-Madison. While there, he conducted research in the Water Chemistry Program, guided by Drs. David Armstrong and Anders Andren, to investigate the natural alterations of PCB mixtures in Fox River sediments and techniques for the destruction of PCBs. He returned to Fort Howard where his work on PCB-related topics continued. In the late 1990s he joined an environmental consulting firm and led a number of studies for a group of Fox Valley paper companies that helped inform the selection of Fox River sediment clean-up alternatives.

Throughout his career, Doug has worked at the interface of science and decision-making, helping to develop and communicate quantitative scientific information to inform water resources policy decisions. He regularly interacts with scientists and managers from multiple stakeholder groups on a range of water resources topics. He has published several peer-reviewed papers, written numerous reports, and given many presentations to scientists and decision-makers. He has served on science advisory panels of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board and state environmental agencies, and is currently a member of the Illinois Nutrient Science Advisory Committee charged with making recommendations regarding numeric nutrient water quality criteria for that state.

Doug is married to Jean (also a UWGB graduate). They are blessed by their faith, and by their three children and three grandchildren. Doug’s hobbies include nature and landscape photography, playing music, and being outdoors in all seasons.