

Biographical Sketch

Michael J. Donahue, Ph.D.

Dr. Michael J. Donahue is a corporate Vice President with AECOM Technical Services, a global consulting firm with broad expertise in water resources and environmental planning, engineering, architectural, and design services. Based in Traverse City, Michigan, he serves on the company's Leadership Team for Water Resources, and is Director of its National Coastal and Ecosystem Restoration Practice. In that capacity, he designs and leads the development and implementation of large scale master plans that enhance coastal community resilience in light of impacts such as coastal flooding, storm surges, lake level fluctuations, sea level rise, land subsidence and extreme weather events. In that capacity, he has managed and/or led planning initiatives in every major river basin and coastal reach in the United States, including several of the nation's most ambitious efforts- all with a strong focus on response to climate-induced impacts (e.g., Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy, Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan, Master Plan for a Sustainable Louisiana Coast).

Prior to joining AECOM, Dr. Donahue served for 17 years as President/Chief Executive Officer of the Great Lakes Commission, a binational agency specializing in environmental/water resources planning, policy, technical services, and project management for the eight Great Lakes states and two Canadian provinces. During his tenure, he worked closely with the Great Lakes states and provinces, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other US and Canadian federal agencies.

Dr. Donahue presently serves on the NOAA Science Advisory Board, as an officer and Board member of the Conservation Resource Alliance, and as a founding member of the Natural Infrastructure Initiative (the latter being a private sector/NGO collaboration to advance nature-based solutions to the nation's coastal protection and ecosystem restoration challenges). He previously served as Vice Chairman of the Chief of Engineer's Environmental Advisory Board; US Chairman of the International Joint Commission's Science Advisory Board, and Board Member, Coastal States Stewardship Foundation.

Dr. Donahue's formal training includes a Ph.D. in Urban, Technological and Environmental Planning; a Master's degree in Public Policy; and a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources Planning and Management (all from the University of Michigan). He has held adjunct faculty appointments at the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and the University of Toledo, and guest lectured at numerous universities in the United States and Canada.

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