



Profile for Jim Bland, Director EPS Inc.

Mr. Bland formerly worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In that capacity he was a co-author of a phosphorus reduction plan for the lower Great Lakes and Saginaw Bay and was the first Project Officer for the Great Lakes Areas of Concern. Additionally he initiated and was responsible for the development of a research/management study to evaluate the use of ecoregions as a water management tool in the State of Ohio. The Ohio ecoregion project has become a model for similar projects across the country. Over forty states are currently using some version of ecoregions as an integrating tool for water quality management. Mr. Bland was the founder of Integrated Lakes Management (ILM). ILM is/was a full service aquatic management firm with experience in watershed assessment, water quality modeling, water quality sampling, algae and rooted aquatic plant control, fisheries assessment, the use of GIS for land use analysis, dredging feasibility studies, shoreline stabilization, and the development of hydrologic and nutrient budgets. Jim received the Lake Guardian Award in 2002 for creating the first successful sanctuary for endangered and threatened fish species in Illinois. Mr. Bland sold ILM in 2005 and is currently the owner/director of EPS inc.

In 2007 Mr. Bland co-authored and did the photography for *A Field Guide to the Freshwater Mussels of Chicago Wilderness*. The Guide was published by Openlands and the Field Museum of Natural History and is on-line on the Field Museum web site: www.fieldmuseum.org/chicagoguides. Jim completed a second short-run publication (1000 copies with limited distribution) on behalf of the RiverWatch program in Illinois: *Aquatic Macroinvertebrates of Illinois A Supplement for the Illinois RiverWatch Program*. A third publication, *Resource Managers Guide to Aquatic Bioassessment* was recently completed (2015) on behalf of the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup and is available on-line at <http://www.DRSCW.com>. The bioassessment guide is intended to promote the use of systems analysis for aquatic resource management. Mr. Bland currently volunteers with Shedd Aquarium in their Research and Conservation Department. Jim is semi-retired but is available for limited consulting and publication projects. He does some public speaking concerning aquatic ecology, management, and water policy.

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