



## Elizabeth Lee

elee@merid.org • Work +1.862.596.2698  
Huntington Woods, Michigan, 48070, United States

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### Summary

A Mediator and Program Manager at Meridian Institute with more than nine years of experience working with federal, state, and local organizations on natural resource issues. Expertise in ocean and coastal management and policy, land use management, and marine fisheries. At Meridian, works primarily on the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative and other projects relating to ocean and coastal policy. Prior to joining Meridian, served as a Program Analyst for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management. Holds an M.S. in Environmental Policy and Planning from the University of Michigan and a B.A. in Biology and Environmental Science and Policy from Duke University.

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### Meridian Experience

#### Meridian Institute

2008–Present

Meridian Institute designs and facilitates collaborative processes that help diverse parties identify critical issues, build relationships and trust, construct innovative solutions, and implement durable decisions. These collaborative processes address challenges at the local, state, national, and international levels, and involve leaders from government agencies, industry, nongovernmental organizations, and international institutions. Meridian also assists organizations in conducting strategy development and planning.

#### Mediator and Program Manager

Manages and facilitates policy dialogues, negotiations, and strategy development projects involving teams of facilitators. Conducts convening assessments, designs collaborative processes, plans and facilitates meetings, helps participants develop consensus documents, and conducts implementation activities. Selected highlights are summarized below:

- Member of the Meridian team serving as a secretariat to the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, a collaborative effort of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission. The primary goal of the Joint Initiative is to accelerate the pace of change that results in meaningful ocean policy reform.
- Member of the Meridian team that planned and facilitated the National Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Workshop hosted by the National Ocean Council in June 2011. This workshop brought together federal, state, tribal, and local government representatives, indigenous community leaders, stakeholders, and members of the public to collaborate on the successful implementation of the National Ocean Policy

and regional coastal and marine spatial planning efforts.

- Served as the project lead working with NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management to develop an effective strategy to build support for improved management of the nation's coastal resources and communities, and specifically to advance working waterfronts. Please see <http://merid.org/staff/elee> for a full list of projects.

## Previous Experience

### Morris Land Conservancy

Boonton, New Jersey 2007

#### *Planning Consultant*

Worked with local municipalities to develop open space and farmland preservation plans to guide future land protection efforts.

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Silver Spring, Maryland 2002–2007

#### *Program Analyst, Presidential Management Fellow*

Coordinated the development and implementation of the national Coastal Zone Management Act Performance Measurement System. Facilitated a federal/state workgroup to develop performance measures, managed a pilot project of seven coastal management programs to test measures, managed a team to collect data on ecological and socioeconomic indicators, and developed a strategy for communicating the results to key audiences. Coordinated with federal agencies to host a national workshop to identify core indicators of the health of coastal ecosystems. Supported agency participation in the Gulf of Maine Ecosystem Indicator Partnership.

### Washington Department of Ecology

Olympia, Washington 2004

#### *Program Analyst (on detail from NOAA)*

Coordinated with state partners to assess the effectiveness of coastal management activities in meeting national and program-specific goals. Produced outreach materials to inform a tribal nation of erosion issues and management options.

### Maine Coastal Program

Augusta, Maine 2003

#### *Program Analyst (on detail from NOAA)*

Worked with local scientists and resource managers to assess the human uses of the Casco Bay estuary, to inform the development of an ecosystem assessment framework. Categorized nutrient indicators for the Gulf of Maine to support the development of a regional indicator effort.

### University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, Michigan 2001–2002

#### *Research Assistant, Ecosystem Management Initiative*

Developed a training module about challenges to interagency collaborative resource management for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center. Developed a white paper on managing the scientific

aspects of collaborative resource management.

*Director of Mediation Training, Student Mediation Services*

Organized and directed mediation training programs for undergraduate and professional students.

*Graduate Student Instructor*

Assisted in teaching the graduate-level Resource Policy and Administration course.

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## Education

### **University of Michigan**

M.S., Environmental Policy and Planning  
2002

### **Duke University**

B.A., Environmental Science and Policy  
B.A., Biology  
1999