



Michigan Waterfront Alliance Board Meets With DNR Director, NRC Chair

The MWA Board met with DNR Director Keith Creagh and Natural Resources Commission Chair J.R. Richardson at Karoub Associates on Wednesday, November 11 to both share concerns of MWA members with respect to management of state natural resources and learn about upcoming DNR initiatives. Director Creagh explained the Department is seeking to implement a “good neighbor” policy encompassing more interaction and coordination with local partners. DNR is also taking steps to improve land management practices and foster better communications across state departments to better coordinate recreational and economic development efforts both at the local and regional level. One example is a forthcoming legislative initiative next year to establish a new multi-year land management strategy for the DNR that considers recreational impacts, engages locals and promotes cooperation among not only state departments, but individual divisions within the DNR as well.

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Changes Possible

The DNR is exploring suggestions to modify the distribution of Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) revenues, and the Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, Rep. Andrea LaFontaine (R-Columbus), held hearings on the topic throughout the state this summer.

The MNRTF currently receives royalty revenue from the sale and lease of state-owned mineral rights, and that revenue is utilized to acquire and develop land and facilities for public recreation. Under the State Constitution, not less than 25% of the total expenditures from the MNRTF in any fiscal year may be expended towards land acquisition, while not more than 25% may be used for development of public recreation facilities. Additionally, in any one year, up to one-third of all mineral lease revenues, plus interest and earnings of the MNRTF, can be used for acquisition or development.

Nonrenewable resource royalty revenue ceases to accrue to the MNRTF once the fund corpus hits a \$500 million cap, established with approval of Proposal 2 by Michigan voters in 2002. The MNRTF reached this level in May 2011, and all additional royalty revenue now generated over the \$500 million cap is directed to state parks. As such, the DNR is asking for input on whether a statutory change is warranted to the current MNRTF formula in order to address other resource protection, economic development or recreational priorities, such as aquatic invasive species management. Director Creagh asked that MWA join the conversation going forward as such proposals work their way through the Legislature.

Legislature Adjourned Until 2014

The Legislature adjourned for the rest of the year on December 12. Session will reconvene on January 8, with a return to regular session the following week through the end of March. After a two-week recess in April, the Legislature will be in session through the end of June.

BILL	SPONSOR	PARTY	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
HB 4095	Rep. Greg MacMaster	R	Convert certain watercraft violations from misdemeanors to civil infractions	Referred to House Committee on Criminal Justice
HB 4096	Rep. Greg MacMaster	R	Exempt certain barges from lighting requirements	Referred to House Committee on Regulatory Reform
HB 4106	Rep. Bob Genetski	R	Clarify allowable use of Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for dredging of Great Lakes Harbors	Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources

HB 4122	Rep. Dian Slavens	D	Regulate exploration and operation of oil & gas wells in residential areas	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 4208	Rep. Dale Zorn	R	Revise residency requirements for resort districts	Passed House, Referred to Senate Committee on Local Government and Elections
HB 4179	Rep. Al Pscholka	R	Allows tax increment financing for waterways dredging	Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources
HB 4197	Rep. Frank Foster	R	Appropriates \$30 million to DNR for waterways dredging	Referred to House Appropriations Committee
HB 4234	Rep. Andrea LaFontaine	R	Provide for sales tax on the difference between trade-in and purchase price for motor vehicles & titled watercraft	Public Act 159 of 2013
HB 4298	Rep. Jon Bumstead	R	Allow delinquent property tax notices to be posted online	House floor
HB 4339	Rep. Ed McBroom	R	Exempt county road commissions from wetland mitigation	Referred to House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
HB 4358	Rep. Wayne Schmidt	R	Eliminate flat gas tax and create refund period	Referred to House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
HB 4359	Rep. Wayne Schmidt	R	Establish wholesale gas tax	Referred to House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
HB 4398	Rep. Amanda Price	R	Revise permit fee for Great Lakes bottomlands dredging	Public Act 11 of 2013
HB 4399	Rep. Al Pscholka	R	Create expedited permit process in dredging emergencies	Public Act 12 of 2013
HB 4400	Rep. Peter Pettalia	R	Revise permit fee for Great Lakes bottomlands dredging	Public Act 13 of 2013

HB 4401	Rep. Peter Pettalia	R	Exempt certain mining operations from inland lakes & streams permit requirements	Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources
HB 4410	Rep. Andrea LaFontaine	R	Establishes marina dredging loan origination program	Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources
HB 4441 & 4442	Rep. Matt Lori	R	Revises penalties for operating watercraft while intoxicated or impaired	House floor
HB 4489	Rep. Thomas Stallworth	D	Authorize permit for oceangoing vessels on the Great Lakes if ballast tanks have been flushed with seawater	Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources
HB 4495	Rep. Dan Lauwers	R	Authorize permit for oceangoing vessels on the Great Lakes if ballast tanks have been flushed with seawater	Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources
HB 4510	Rep. Peter MacGregor	R	Authorize disposal of water-softening residuals through specific permitted facilities	Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources
HB 4539	Rep. Wayne Schmidt	R	Eliminate sales tax on gasoline	Referred to House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
HB 4622	Rep. Al Pscholka	R	Revise local drainage district boundaries	Referred to House Committee on Local Government
HB 4608	Rep. Shirkey	R	Increase registration fee for vehicles not subject to motor fuel or diesel fuel tax	Referred to House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
HB 4630	Rep. McCready	R	Modify vehicle registration fees	Referred to House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
HB 4632	Rep. Schmidt	R	Increase vehicle registration tax and create new registration tax for hybrid and alternative vehicles	Referred to House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure

HB 4634	Rep. Schmidt	R	Modify trailer registration fees	Referred to House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
HB 4655	Rep. Yonker	R	Modify streamlined use tax on vehicles	Referred to House Committee on Tax Policy
HB 4678	Rep. Daley	R	Require water withdrawal dispute process for agricultural wells	Passed House, referred to Senate Committee on Government Operations
HB 4768	Rep. Crawford	R	Prohibit DEQ from limiting sodium concentration in groundwater discharge	Awaiting Governor's signature
HB 4793	Rep. Al Pscholka	R	Allow drainage district to institute condemnation proceedings to acquire right of way on private property	Passed House, Referred to Senate Committee on Local Government and Elections
HB 4840	Rep. Nesbitt	R	Eliminate permit requirement for suction weed harvesting	Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources
HB 4841	Rep. Irwin	D	Create pesticide notification registry	Referred to House Committee on Regulatory Reform
HB 4856	Rep. Dillon	D	Allow local unit of government to charge for emergency rescue service during an emergency if individual was grossly negligent	House floor
HB 4857	Rep. VerHeulen	R	Allow local unit of government to charge for emergency rescue service during an emergency if individual was grossly negligent	House floor
HB 4885	Rep. Nesbitt	R	Reduce severance tax on production oil & gas from enhanced recovery projects	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 4899	Rep. Roberts	D	Require notice & public hearing prior to authorizing hydraulic fracturing	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 4900	Rep. Irwin	D	Require disclosure with respect to hydraulic fracturing	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology

HB 4901	Rep. Hovey-Wright	D	Provide for study of hydraulic fracturing	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 4902	Rep. Tlaib	D	Create presumption of liability from chemicals utilized in hydraulic fracturing process	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 4903	Rep. McCann	D	Require water withdrawal assessment tool for certain oil & gas operators	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 4904	Rep. Driskell	D	Eliminate preemption of local zoning of hydraulic fracturing operations	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 4905	Rep. Cochran	D	Prohibit usage of flowback water from hydraulic fracturing as dust suppression tool on dirt roads	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 4906	Rep. Barnett	D	Modify setback requirements for oil & gas wells	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 5107	Rep. Joe Graves	R	Create minor permit category for repair or replacement of a seawall	Referred to Senate Natural Resources, Environment, and Great Lakes Committee
SB 11	Sen. Tory Rocca	R	Establish sale prices as presumptive true cash value when a property is sold	Referred to Senate Finance Committee
SB 25	Sen. Dave Hildenbrand	R	Revise appeal process for personal residence exemptions	Public Act 140 of 2013
SB 78	Sen. Tom Casperson	R	Prohibit DNR designation of biodiversity areas	Passed the Senate, Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources
SB 84-88	Senate Republicans	R	Gas tax package	Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee
SB 89 & 90	Sen. Dave Robertson	R	Provide for sales tax on the difference between trade-in and purchase price for motor vehicles & titled watercraft	SB 89 is now Public Act 160 of 2013

SB 163	Sen. Mike Green	R	Revises permit exemptions for wetlands & inland lakes and streams, and requires additional justification from Department for denial of Part 13 permits	PA 98 of 2013
SB 164	Sen. Tom Casperson	R	Appropriates \$30 million to DNR for waterways dredging	Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee
SB 214	Sen. Tom Casperson	R	Expand appropriate use of MNRTF dollars	Referred to Senate Natural Resources, Environment, and Great Lakes Committee
SB 215	Sen. Jack Brandenburg	R	Reinstate state marina dredging loan program	Referred to Senate Outdoor Recreation & Tourism Committee
SB 218	Sen. Goeffrey Hansen	R	Allow water resource improvement tax increment finance authority to continue, and allow dredging	Public Act 25 of 2013
SB 229	Sen. John Moolenaar	R	Clarify that MNRTF dollars can be used for recreational dredging	On Senate Floor
SB 233	Sen. Darwin Boohar	R	Appropriates MNRTF projects for FY 2012	PA 9 of 2013
SB 243	Sen. Darwin Boohar	R	Requires half of Waterways Commission spending over next three fiscal years to be dedicated to recreational boating infrastructure, including breakwalls & dredging	Passed Senate, Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources
SB 252	Sen. Jack Brandenburg	R	Establishes marina dredging loan origination program	PA 10 of 2013
SB 264	Sen. Tom Casperson	R	Modify procedures for dredging permit issuance	PA 87 of 2013
SB 266	Sen. Mike Green	R	Authorize permits for oceangoing vessels on the Great Lakes if ballast tanks have been flushed with seawater	Referred to Senate Natural Resources, Environment, and Great Lakes Committee
SB 351	Sen. Arlan Meekhof	R	Clarifies that appropriate application of fertilizer is not a release	Public Act 141 of 2013

SB 394	Sen. Hune	R	Prohibit DEQ from limiting sodium concentration in groundwater discharge	Referred to Senate Natural Resources, Environment, and Great Lakes Committee
SB 444	Sen. Casperson	R	Revises aquatic species permit requirements, creates aquatic species database and website identifying infested lakes, and allows local ordinances and fees for aquatic nuisance control	On Seante Floor
SB 445	Sen. Booher	R	Remove Departmental authority to revise list of prohibited or restricted species	Referred to Senate Natural Resources, Environment, and Great Lakes Committee
SB 472	Sen. Walker	R	Modifications to State Survey and Remonumentation Act	Referred to Senate Committee on Local Government and Elections
SB 662	Sen. Robertson	R	Create minor permit category for repair or replacement of a seawall	Referred to Senate Natural Resources, Environment, and Great Lakes Committee