



MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

August 2014

www.mwai.org

MWA Mission Statement "This corporation is formed to protect, preserve and promote the wise use of inland waters – lakes, streams, rivers, creeks and the waters and bottomlands of the state of Michigan.

Presidents' Corner

By Bob Frye

Dear Individual Members and Lake Association Members.

I would like to thank Sheryl Judd and our MWA Secretary Roger Carey for their continued efforts to improve and update the www.MWAI.org website. Not only can you go there and find past newsletters, legislative reports, Riparian Law information and lots of additional information, but now you can sign up for Email Action Alerts!

The MWA's greatest resource is it's membership and now it will be even easier to communicate necessary and timely information. Please sign up today by going to the www.MWAI.org website and subscribing to the Email Action Alert. Your email address will remain secure and will only be sent to when absolutely necessary. If you have trouble signing up just send your email address to roberttfrye@gmail.com and I will be sure to get your email address on the Action Alert List.

I am pleased to report that Senate Bill 680 has been signed by the governor and is now law. Your Michigan Waterfront Alliance lobbyist Matt Kurta of Karoub Associates and all those who lobbied for the passage of this important piece of road end legislation are to be congratulated.

Another front burner piece of legislation is Senator Casperson's Senate Bill 444. A measure to reduce regulation and simplify the process for people to treat and control aquatic invasive species, this bill received final approval by the Michigan Senate on June 14 and was signed into law on July 16. It is progress, but a key part of this legislation, which would have provided a way for lake communities to share the cost of invasive species control with public users, was deleted. After meeting with Kendra Evert from Senator Casperson's office for an extended time on June 9, we were glad to learn that even though we lost that battle on local funding, we must have helped to raise some awareness because \$5,000,000 has been budgeted this year to fight invasives. The MWA board voted to send a letter to DNR Director Creagh supporting the allocation of a greater portion of the \$5 million towards grants versus staffing.

Your MWA board reviewed the "flawed" result of the Holton vs Ward Appellate Court ruling. This ruling will have statewide impact if allowed to stand. It would mean that certain impounded lakes would not have riparian rights. The MWA board then voted to retain attorney William Carey to file an amicus brief on this matter with the Michigan Supreme Court. It is estimated that over 1,000 Michigan Lakes could be affected! On August 12, Attorney Carey reports: "I am still in the research phase of the amicus brief. The last of the litigant briefs were filed about two weeks ago."

Sincerely,
Bob Frye, President MWA
skibones@aol.com

KAROUB

ASSOCIATES

MWA Legislative Update – August 2014

As the Legislature has been out of session, no legislative news to report given they are out on the campaign trail and not in town, other than for a short day of session in August in the Senate. Attached is our summary of the Primary Election results which may be of interest.

Although there may be challenges to the results of some of these races, Karoub Associates is pleased to provide unofficial election results from the August statewide primary.

CONGRESSIONAL RACES, STATE HOUSE & STATE SENATE can be viewed at our web site - <http://www.mwai.org/> click on “action alerts”.

PROPOSAL 1 PASSES

Voters approved by a roughly 70 to 30 percent margin Proposal 1 that phases out the Personal Property Tax (PPT) on industrial and some commercial equipment between 2016 and 2023 and replaces lost local revenue by shifting money from the state’s six percent use tax.

If you would like a more detailed analysis of any US Congressional, State Senate or State House race, please contact our office. Karoub Associates will provide official election totals upon request once they have been certified.

(For review of other watershed legislative matters, see our web site - <http://www.mwai.org/>)

MICHIGAN chapter NORTH AMERICAN LAKE MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

McNALMS includes members from state, federal and local agencies as well as professionals working in limnology, biology, fisheries, recreation, and engineering. The Chapter provides a unique opportunity for individuals, groups and lake advocates to come together to achieve shared lake protection and restoration objectives.

Focusing on inland lakes, McNALMS is an affiliate member of the North American Lake Management Society, an international society. Through this affiliation, McNALMS is able to draw on the expertise of scientists, engineers, policymakers, and citizens from throughout the world.

McNALMS

- Provides articles on Lake Management (water quality, aquatic plants, fish, exotic species and other topics.)
- Encourages cooperation and interaction among lake and watershed managers to address problems impacting Michigan's lakes.
- Promotes the sharing of information and experiences on scientific, financial, administrative, legal, and legislative aspects of lake and watershed management and policy and legislation influence.
- Fosters the development of lake restoration and protection programs at local, state, and national levels.
- Provides education through our web site, newsletters, and an Annual Fall Conference.
- Provides a forum for citizens and managers to share ideas and promote common objectives

Dues are \$25 for an Individual Member, \$50 for a Lake Board /Association/Non-profit membership, \$100 for a Corporation membership

For more information and/or a membership application, visit us at www.mcnalms.org

Michigan Lake and Stream Associations
News and Views for Summer 2014
By Scott Brown, ML&SA Executive Director



An Important (But Much too Modest) First Step.....

Earlier this summer, Governor Snyder and the Michigan state legislature came to an agreement on an initial funding package earmarked for the battle against a now decades old invasion of aquatic invasive species. Although the Governor had requested \$6M for the 2014/2015 fiscal year, a more fiscally conservative legislature agreed to \$5M. A significant portion of the revenue will be utilized to hire an additional sixteen full time employees to bolster aquatic invasive species related activities at the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Natural Resources. In addition, the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes will receive funding to enhance its efforts to combat the spread of invasive species within the waters of the Great Lakes. A relatively small grant program will also be created to fund aquatic invasive species remediation projects within inland lakes. While Michigan Lake and Stream Associations and the Michigan Waterfront Alliance applaud the governor and the state legislature for finally recognizing (albeit with only modest funding) the on-going ecological threat posed by aquatic invasive species to the social, cultural and economic value of our freshwater legacy, we would argue that five million dollars is a woefully inadequate sum with which to adequately address the issue. The vast number of inland water bodies within Michigan hosting one or more exotic aquatic invasive species presents an enormous natural resource management challenge. Effectively managing the ecological impacts and spread of aquatic invasive species within Michigan and the Great Lakes region will not only require an intensive stakeholder effort at all levels, it will also require the successful implementation of well funded and managed publicly funded programs. In light of the fact that private lakefront property owners have shouldered the twenty five million dollar per year burden for managing aquatic invasive species within inland lakes for over sixty years with no financial support from either the State of Michigan or the recreational boating community, it is time for Governor Snyder and the state legislature to recognize the seriousness of the aquatic invasive species problem within in our inland waters and respond by providing state funding levels that are adequate to realistically addressing the problem. Michigan Lake and Stream Associations and the Michigan Waterfront Alliance will continue to address this issue of improved aquatic invasive species funding in Lansing, lakefront property owners and stakeholders of our inland waters can assist in these efforts by contacting Governor Snyder and their respective state legislators and letting them know that the aquatic invasive species problem in Michigan is much more significant than is reflected in a much too modest five million dollar state funding program.

Save the Dates!

Michigan Lake and Stream Associations 54th Annual Conference will take place on Friday and Saturday, **May 1st and 2nd, 2015** at the Boyne Mountain Resort in beautiful Boyne Falls. The event will be highlighted by workshops, seminars and special sessions dedicated to learning more about the management and preservation of Michigan's magnificent water resources. Visit the Michigan Lake and Stream Associations website at: www.mymlsa.org, later this fall for more details regarding the 2015 annual conference.



Membership Application

(Dues for 2014 are due January 2014)

The annual dues for individual membership In Michigan Waterfront Alliance are \$50. Lake Association Membership is \$100. Commercial, Individual & Legal Donations Are Appreciated. Please Print:

_____ () _____ - _____ () _____ - _____
 Last Name First Name Day Phone Evening Phone

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____
 Street Address City State Zip Code Email Address

_____ _____ _____
 County Township Name of Lake or Stream Association if established

Make Checks payable to: Michigan Waterfront Alliance
 Mail to: MWA, P.O. Box 369
 Fenton, MI 48430

Individual (\$50)	_____
Lake Assoc. (\$100)	_____
Corp. (\$200)	_____
Legal Assist. Fund	_____
Total Enclosed	\$ _____

Aug 2014

SUMMARY MWA MEETING(S)



MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE, INC. BOARD MEETING

June 9, 2014 – 4:00 pm – Karoub, Lansing
 Minutes (unapproved)

1. Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm. Present were Frye, R. Brown, S. Brown, Highfield, Sharp, Beckwith & Murphy. Excused were W. Carey, R. Carey & Sharp. Also present were M. Kurta of Karoub Association.
2. Minutes of 4/26/13 were approved.
3. Treasurer's Report was presented for review and accepted.
4. A motion to accept the slate of officers as they currently stand. Motion carried unanimously.
5. R. Frye reviewed the "flawed" result of Holton vs Ward case. Frye noted that this would have state wide impact if allowed to stand. Both ML&SA & MWA felt amicus briefs should be developed. A motion to authorize W. Carrey to file a brief on this matter not to exceed \$3500 was passed.

6. Future meeting set for fall meeting on September 3rd, & December 8, 2014 at Karoub at 10:00am
7. Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm

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Aug 2014

**MICHIGAN WATERFRONT
ALLIANCE,
ONLY THROUGH
YOUR ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT,
IS YOUR LAKE PROTECTED.
Your Support Does
Make a difference!
It's an investment that pays off!**

Lobbyists are NOT FREE, but individual membership in MWA is VERY CHEAP; it costs just \$50 a year, your lake Association is only \$100. Think of it as an insurance policy against the erosion of the value of your riparian rights of your valuable property.

Take a copy of the MWA membership form on page #4 and share with your friends and neighbors.

JOIN MWA TODAY !

**YOUR SUPPORT ALLOWS THE
ACCOMPLISHMENTS YOU READ ABOUT,
PLUS THE NECESSARY EFFORTS AND
COMMUNICATION ACROSS OUR STATE**

MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE
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