



**Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) is a 501(c) 4 non-profit corporation formed over twenty years ago in order to effectively advocate for the creation or preservation of state laws, and/or policies designed to protect, preserve, and promote the sustainable and wise use of our state's immense treasure of high quality freshwater resources. Our primary mission will be accomplished by pro-active participation in Michigan's legislative process (lobbying), by participating in court cases whose outcomes may have significant statewide ramifications, and/or by direct involvement with natural resources management, or environment focused state agencies or departments.**

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## **Michigan Aggregate Industry and Allies in the State Legislature to Re-Introduce Legislation Depriving Local Units of Government the Right to Deny Aggregate Mining Associated Land Use Permits**

by Scott Brown  
MWA Board Member

Arguing that Michigan needs sand and gravel to build roads, bridges and homes, the Michigan Aggregates Association (MAA), a non-profit trade association founded in 1960 to protect and promote the interests of the Michigan aggregates industry, and its allies in the state legislature, will again introduce legislation in 2021 that will seek to prevent local units of government from denying land use permits for new aggregate mining sites.

Introduced to the Michigan state legislature in 2018, and again in 2020, if passed, aggregate industry supported legislation would have acted to amend Section 205 of the 2006 Michigan Zoning Enabling Act to read “a local unit of government shall not, by ordinance or otherwise, prevent, prohibit, or deny a permit, approval, or other authorization for the extraction, by mining, of natural resources from any property, possessory, or contractual rights...”. It is important to point out that supporters of the controversial legislation have failed to garner enough support for passage in each of their two previous attempts.

The intensity of the controversy surrounding the proposed legislation has been amplified by the fact that Michigan is known to host one of the most abundant concentrations of aggregate in North America. Referring to the immense volumes of stone, sand, and gravel that were transported to Michigan from as far away as Canada during the last ice age by the movement of the immense glaciers that were also responsible for creating Michigan’s vast natural heritage of inland lakes and streams, aggregate provides the foundation for the construction of roads, highway, railroads, bridges, dams, and both commercial and residential construction. The importance of aggregate is emphasized, for example, by the fact that the United States Geological Survey (USGS) indicates that aggregates comprised of crushed stone, sand, and gravel account for 94% of the material utilized to construct interstate highways.

In addition to concerns related to having sufficient quantities of aggregate to complete construction projects, the Michigan Aggregates Association argues that even though Michigan currently hosts 325 aggregate mines, their primarily rural locations force those engaged in highway and bridge revitalization in urban areas to haul aggregate in from distant counties, therefore resulting in significantly higher project costs. The aggregate industry indicates that the most important mining operations are those that are situated closest to densely-populated metropolitan areas where the materials are needed for road-building and other aggregate dependent construction projects.

As currently written, the 2006 Michigan Zoning Enabling Act allows local units of government to consider a host of critical factors, including the potential impact of the proposed aggregate mine on property values, road safety, local water resources, and on overall quality of life within surrounding communities. The Michigan Township Association indicates that the existing provisions of the law give local communities the right to deny new aggregate mines when necessary, in addition to giving local government officials the leverage to negotiate with the owners of existing aggregate mines to help prevent conflicts with their residential neighbors. For example, the current law permits local units of government to regulate hours of operation, and to attempt to limit the unfavorable impacts of existing aggregate mines by requiring noise abatement, dust control, and truck traffic regulation.

Environmental advocacy groups in Michigan remain opposed to the passage of legislation that would deprive local units of government the right to deny land use permits for aggregate mining operations due to the fact that proposed aggregate mining sites are often situated in areas of the state hosting an abundance of valuable freshwater resources such as inland lakes, streams, wetlands, and ground water that are vulnerable to degradation by surface mining operations.

Please “stay tuned” to future Michigan Waterfront Alliance e- newsletters for more information as the next round of Michigan Aggregates Association supported legislation proceeds through the legislative process later this year...



**Bring the  
Mobile Boat Wash  
to your community!**

## **MSU MOBILE BOAT WASH**

It's not too soon to start looking forward to summer, right?

Contact us to book the Mobile Boat Wash for your 2021 event! We will bring our boat cleaning systems, provide boat washes, and educate boaters about how they can help prevent the spread of invasive species. As always, the MBW services are completely free.

Check out [our flyer](#) to learn more.

E-mail us at [latimor1@msu.edu](mailto:latimor1@msu.edu) in order to get the best date.



PROTECT YOUR LAKE  
FROM INVASIVE SPECIES  
**NOW SCHEDULING**  
**2021 EVENTS**  
MOBILE BOAT WASH  
PROJECT

The Mobile Boat Wash unit is an outreach program from Michigan State University designed to educate boaters about aquatic invasive species.

[Click here](#) to visit the MSU Mobile Boat Wash website...

[Click here](#) to visit the MSU Mobile Boat Wash [Facebook](#) page...



## MNSP Shoreline and Shallows Conference

and



## MGLP Lake Conservation Webinar Series

Present the online conference:

# A New Wave of Thinking

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

### AGENDA

- 10:00am EST *Introduction* – Julia Kirkwood, Chair, Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership and Joe Nohner, Coordinator, Michigan Glacial Lakes Partnership
- 10:10 *Social/community acceptance of natural shorelines: Lessons from 20 years of promoting soft shorelines* – John Hartig, Visiting Scholar at University of Windsor's Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research and Board of Directors of the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, Detroit
- 11:10 *Promoting lakeshore protection: An introduction to social marketing* – Dr. Bret Shaw, Associate Professor, Department of Life Sciences Communication, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI and Dr. John Haack, Emeritus University of Wisconsin Extension Natural Resource Educator, Madison, WI
- 12:10 BREAK
- 1:00pm EST *How Waves Work* – Brian Majka, Senior Restoration Ecologist, GEI Consultants
- 2:00 *Defining No-Wake Zones for Wake Surf Boats – A Data Driven Approach* – Alex Ray, Recreation Management Consultant, Payette Environmental Services, LLC
- 3:00 *Wave Energy and the Bioengineering Continuum* – Jen Buchanan, Watershed Protection Director, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Petoskey
- 4:00 Adjourn

Please join the [Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership](#) and [Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership](#) on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 for our virtual free conference on Zoom.

Register on the [MNSP](#) website or directly at [Shoreline Conference](#)

*Co-sponsors: Michigan State University Institute of Water Research; Michigan Department of Natural Resources; Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; MSU Extension; and GEI Consultants*

[Click here to download a flyer](#)

## for the "A New Wave of Thinking" on-line conference

**[Click here to register for the](#)**  
**"A New Wave of Thinking" on-line conference...**



The Michigan Clean Water Corps ([MiCorps](#)), a network of volunteer monitoring programs that collect and share surface water quality data throughout the state, is accepting 2021 funding proposals for two grant programs.

**Volunteer Stream Cleanup Program:** A total of \$25,000 is available for grants (ranging from \$500 to \$5,000) to support local units of governments in efforts to clean up garbage from Michigan's rivers, streams, and creeks. This program is funded by fees from the sale of Michigan's specialty water quality protection license plates, available from the [Secretary of State's Office](#).

**Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program:** A total of \$75,000 is available across three grant types for volunteer benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring and habitat assessment in wadeable streams and rivers. Local units of government and nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply.

- **Startup Grants:** These grants are for organizations that seek to learn the MiCorps protocols of monitoring and set themselves up to submit successful Implementation grant proposals in future years. There is a maximum amount of \$5,000 per grant award for one-year projects under this funding area.
- **Implementation Grants:** These funds support volunteer training and macroinvertebrate data collection for the purpose of assessing water quality that help state and local efforts to protect and manage water resources. Grants may be used to fund a monitoring coordinator and/or to buy water quality monitoring supplies. There is a maximum amount of \$20,000 per grant award for two-year projects under this funding area.
- **Maintenance Grants:** These one-year grants are for groups that are already monitoring with MiCorps procedures. Funds can pay for staff time, equipment and travel to MiCorps trainings and conferences and are a maximum of \$2,000.

The request for proposals for each of the grant opportunities can be found at the [Stream Monitoring and Cleanup Grants webpage](#).

**Grant applications are due by 5:00 P.M. on Monday, February 22, 2021.**

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered for funding. Questions about the grant application process should be directed to Dr. Paul Steen, Huron River Watershed Council, at 734-769-5123 (Extension 601) or [PSteen@HRWC.org](mailto:PSteen@HRWC.org); or Tamara Lipsey, Lake Michigan Unit, Surface Water Assessment Section, Water Resources Division, EGLE, at 517-342-4372 or [LipseyT@Michigan.gov](mailto:LipseyT@Michigan.gov).

The [MiCorps program](#) was established in 2004 to assist the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) in collecting water quality data for use in water resources management and protection programs.



Contact: [Paige Filice](#), 517-676-7291, or [Kevin Walters](#), 616-250-8637

## **New Clean Boats, Clean Waters grants available for outreach activities**

**Applications now available for 2021 projects**

Clean Boats, Clean Waters, an outreach program focused on limiting and preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species in Michigan, is offering a new grant opportunity to organizations communicating prevention information to boaters.

The program is now taking applications for grants of \$1,000 to \$3,000 for projects that produce and distribute aquatic invasive species outreach materials or removal supplies, host boater outreach events or install prevention signage.

This funding opportunity is non-competitive, and complete and eligible applications will be funded in the order they are received if project funds are available.

A maximum of \$20,000 total will be distributed in 2021. Applications will be accepted until Feb. 19, 2021, or until \$20,000 has been allocated, whichever comes first.

**Applicants will be informed of grant decisions by March 1, 2021. Grant activities must be completed by Dec. 31, 2021, to be eligible for reimbursement.**

**There is no match or cost-sharing requirement. Funds will be distributed via a one-time reimbursement of eligible expenses.**

**Partnering with other conservation organizations to conduct boater outreach on a regional scale is highly recommended. Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas and other organizations qualified for Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program funds are encouraged to pursue those funds instead of the CBCW grant to perform boater outreach activities.**

**More information about the Clean Boats, Clean Waters grant program, including the [grant fact sheet](#), [application form](#) and instructions, is available at [MICBCW.org](http://MICBCW.org).**

***CBCW is a joint effort between Michigan State University Extension and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. Funding for CBCW and this grant opportunity is provided by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.***



**We Need Your Help!**

**Did you know that a very high percentage of every dollar made available to MWA goes directly to pay for our efforts in Lansing to pass legislation that benefits Michigan's water resources and the interests of waterfront property owners?**

## **Only You Can Help Amplify the Power of Our Collective Voice in Lansing By Becoming a Member and/or by Making a Generous Donation to Michigan Waterfront Alliance !**

By becoming an Individual, Association, or Corporate member of Michigan Waterfront Alliance, and/or by making a donation to our non-profit organization, you will be contributing to enhancing our ability to help preserve and protect our extraordinary treasure of freshwater resources.

The fact is, a very large percentage of the funds generated by membership dues and your generous donations are utilized by our organization to fund our capacity to effectively lobby the state legislature on behalf of protecting Michigan's freshwater resources, and the unique interests of our member waterfront communities. In the coming year, for example, Michigan Waterfront Alliance will be engaged in intensive lobbying efforts focused on encouraging our state legislature to (finally!) create a sustainable revenue source with which to fund the management of an increasingly destructive array of aquatic invasive species that continue to invade and degrade our inland lakes, streams, and wetlands. Our lobbying efforts will also focus on restricting the operation of wake boats to areas of large lakes that will help ensure that shorelines and critical shallow water habitat are not damaged or destroyed. As a founding member and key partner in the Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force, Michigan Waterfront Alliance will also continue to work on a collaborative basis in 2020 with the DNR Parks and Recreation Division, and the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy to develop and implement new programs and initiatives intended to prevent or minimize the spread of aquatic invasive plants and animals.

Please consider becoming a member, and/or of donating to Michigan Waterfront Alliance!

[Click here](#) to visit our Membership page.

[Click here](#) to visit our Donation page.



## Student Proposals Sought for Lake Research

Once again, the Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society and the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association have teamed up to offer their annual Lake Research Student Grants Program for research on Inland Lakes for 2021. If you have a student or know of someone who might be interested in applying for funding, please pass this information on to them. Complete details as well as a link to the Application and Grant Proposal form are available at <https://www.mcnaalms.org/grants/>.

Up to \$4,000 is available for the funding of one or more proposals. Announcement of grant recipients will be made by the end of March or early April.

Proposals are due by Friday, February 26, 2021. For further information about the lake research focused grant program, contact [mcnaalms@mcnaalms.org](mailto:mcnaalms@mcnaalms.org).



## Michigan Waterfront Alliance is a proud member of the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership

**A Collaborative Partnership Dedicated to Protecting  
Michigan's Vast Heritage of High Quality Inland Lakes**

The Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership (MILP) is made up of a broad range of organizations and agencies that have a common interest - protecting inland lakes. Explore this site to learn more about Michigan's lakes, the organizations involved with the Partnership, and how you can be a part of the effort. You can also follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

**Michigan has more than 11,000 inland lakes. Most are high quality resources highly valued by society for recreation and as places to live. These cultural demands place significant stresses upon these ecosystems, often resulting in undesirable changes. How can these lakes be strategically managed to minimize undesirable changes and protect them for this and future generations?**

**The purpose of the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership (Partnership) is to engage state and local agencies, Native American Nations, outreach institutions (universities and other educational institutions), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), businesses, industries and citizens in a collaborative effort to ensure the quality, sustainability and ecological diversity of lakes, while considering society's needs. The Partnership will promote communication and cooperation between partners, communities and citizens interested in the management of Michigan's inland lakes, educating leaders, and strengthening stewardship efforts.**

**The MILP Coordinating Council is the decision-making body of the Partnership. The Council sets the goals of the Partnership, and all Council Partners have a vote in the activities and policies of the Partnership. The Council currently meets four times per year. Coordinating Council member organizations are listed alphabetically below. Clicking on an organization name will take you to that organization's website.**

**To learn more about the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership, and its ensemble of inland lake protection focused collaborative organizations, [click here](#)**



## **Join Michigan Waterfront Alliance!**

- **Are you tired of funding the management of aquatic invasive species on your lake that were introduced by recreational boaters using the local MI Department of Natural Resources public boating access site?**
- **Are you just a bit angry that recreational boaters using your lake are not being asked to contribute their fair share to combat the negative influences of aquatic invasive species?**
- **Are you worried about the fact that your lakefront residential property values are being negatively influenced by the steadily increasing presence of aquatic invasive species?**
- **Are you concerned about the fact that it is nearly impossible to find an inland lake in Michigan that does not currently host one or more potentially harmful aquatic invasive species?**
- **Are you aware of the fact that inland lakes are Michigan's most valuable natural resource, and that our state legislature has thus far appropriated almost nothing in the way of budget resources to help ensure they remain healthy and viable?**

**If your answer is yes to any of these important questions, please help ensure that your voice is heard in Lansing by joining Michigan Waterfront Alliance today.**

**Click here to Join MWA**

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**Visit the Michigan Waterfront Alliance Web Site by Clicking Here**

**[Unsubscribe](#)**

This message was sent to [roberttfrye@gmail.com](mailto:roberttfrye@gmail.com) from [scottb1952@gmail.com](mailto:scottb1952@gmail.com)

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