



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.



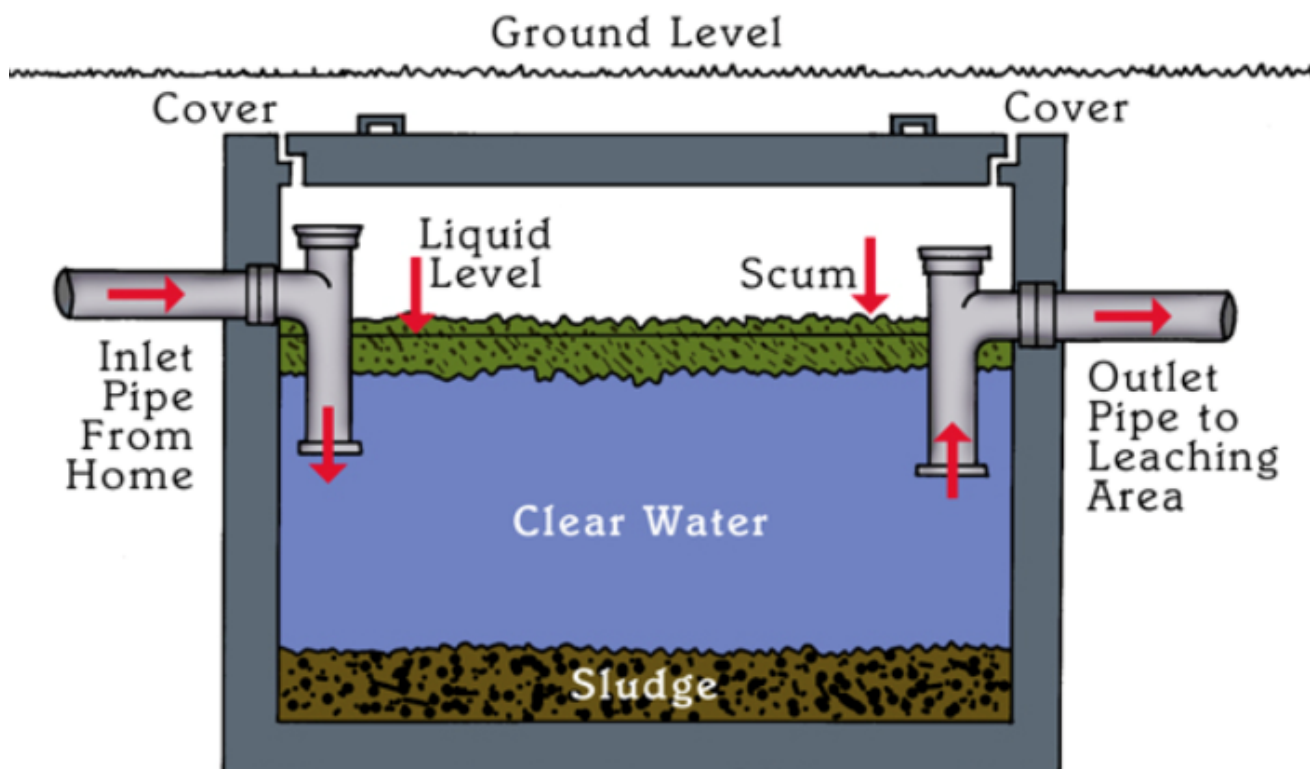
Hundreds of Thousands of Leaky Septic Systems a Major Source of Public Health Threatening Toxic Water Pollution in Michigan

**"One half of Michigan's thousands of miles of rivers
and streams suffer from concentrations of toxic e-coli that
exceed minimum water quality standards."**

Hundreds of thousands of failing septic tanks in Michigan are acting as a major

source of human fecal matter associated e-coli bacteria laden raw sewage that contaminates ground water, and renders the waters of many of our lakes, rivers, and streams unfit for total contact water sports such as skiing, wakeboarding, swimming or snorkeling. The increasingly widespread problem is primarily attributed to the fact that Michigan is the only state that does not require regular septic system inspections. It is also important to note that only eleven of Michigan's eighty three counties have enacted local ordinances requiring septic systems to be inspected and maintained on a regular basis.

The steadily escalating environmental and public health associated problem is derived from that fact that approximately 20%, or 280,000 of the 1.4 million septic tanks that were constructed in the 1940's, 1950's and 1960's throughout Michigan to enable the use of indoor toilets that served as a welcome replacement for "outhouses", are now failing. The problem has also been exacerbated by the fact that many Michigan homes located in suburban areas, and their now severely antiquated septic systems were built prior to the construction of sewer systems that now serve most small towns and villages.



In Kent County, for example, where the health department has only a volunteer septic system inspection program in place, an estimated 11, 250 failing residential septic systems distributed throughout the county leak approximately one million gallons of raw sewage into vulnerable groundwater supplies each day. In inland lake inundated Oakland County, as another prime example, where public health threatening cases of

e-coli contamination of rivers and lakes are reported on a more and more frequent basis, approximately twenty-five to thirty percent of the 100,000 septic systems located in Michigan's most affluent county are known to be leaking. The gravity of the situation is also effectively illustrated by the fact that the results of a 2015 study conducted by Michigan State University researchers on sixty-four Michigan rivers revealed concentrations of e-coli that were higher than U. S. Environmental Protection Agency permitted water quality standards. The significance of the issue is also amplified by the fact that the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lake, and Energy (EGLE) reports that approximately one half of Michigan's thousands of miles of rivers and streams suffer from concentrations of toxic e-coli bacteria that exceed minimum water quality standards.

The presence of hundreds of thousands of leaky septic systems represents a major environmental and public health issue that promises to escalate in significance as increasing numbers of septic systems fail and begin to leak with the passage of time. Past efforts to enact legislation that would have established a meaningful statewide standard for how septic tanks are designed, built, inspected, and maintained have sadly disintegrated in the face of arguments suggesting that regulating septic tanks represents a violation of private property rights. Those opposed to the enactment of a statewide septic systems code have also successfully argued that regular septic tank inspections and maintenance would be too costly for many homeowners, over burden local health departments, and make it more difficult to sell homes in rural areas that are not serviced by sewer systems.

It is important to note that Michigan Governor Whitmer recognizes the significance of the problem, and accordingly, declared the week of September 20-24, 2021 as Septic Smart Week that encouraged homeowners and communities to properly maintain their increasingly vulnerable septic systems. While it is not very likely that the Michigan state legislature will overcome its concerns for "treading" on individual property rights, and act to pass a statewide standard for effectively regulating septic systems anytime soon, both Governor Whitmer and Senator Jon Bumstead have each proposed dedicating \$35 million of this year's state budget to enable the establishment and funding of an MDEQ administered program that would make low interest loans available to homeowners seeking to repair, replace, or eliminate leaking residential septic systems.

For more information on how failing septic systems are capable of degrading our precious freshwater resources, visit the U. S. EPA's web page entitled "How Your Septic System Can Impact Nearby Water Sources". The inland lakes preservation focused folks from northwest Lower Michigan's Glen Lake Association have also

created a [septic smart webpage](#) that contains valuable information regarding the proper maintenance of septic systems.

Senate Bill 565 Seeks to Dedicate \$2.21 Billion in Federal American Recovery Plan Revenue to Fund a Much Needed Investment in Michigan's Clean Water Infrastructure and Environmental Protection

Suggesting that "clean drinking water and taking care of our environment are not partisan issues", Senator Jon Bumstead (R) of Newaygo has introduced [Senate Bill 565](#) that seeks to use \$2.21 billion in federal American Recovery Plan funding, and \$290 million in repurposed state bond funds to make much needed investments in dam infrastructure, clean drinking water, wastewater facilities, environmental protection, and allow for the establishment of a low interest loan program for those seeking to repair, replace, or eliminate their aging residential septic systems (see Table 2 below for detailed information on how the funds would be allocated).

In order to express your opinion regarding MI Senate Bill 565, contact your respective [MI State Senator](#) or [State Representative](#).

Table 2

Department/Program	Gross	Federal	Restricted	GF/GP
Agriculture and Rural Development				
Agriculture pollution prevention fund	<u>\$15,000,000</u>	<u>\$15,000,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Total Agriculture and Rural Development	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000	\$0	\$0
Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy				
Clean water infrastructure	\$235,000,000	\$0	\$235,000,000	\$0
Dam risk reduction revolving loan fund	650,000,000	650,000,000	0	0
Drinking water program	400,000,000	400,000,000	0	0
Emergency dam safety action fund	15,000,000	15,000,000	0	0
Emergency dam safety grant program	15,000,000	15,000,000	0	0
Failing septic system loans	35,000,000	0	35,000,000	0
Geologic data collection	15,000,000	15,000,000	0	0
Healthy hydration	85,000,000	85,000,000	0	0
Lead line replacement	600,000,000	600,000,000	0	0
Michigan water use advisory council recommendations	5,000,000	5,000,000	0	0
PFAS remediation grant program	100,000,000	100,000,000	0	0
Public health risk reduction grants	20,000,000	0	20,000,000	0
SAW program grants	100,000,000	100,000,000	0	0
Clean water infrastructure grants	200,000,000	200,000,000	0	0
Wetland mitigation grants	<u>10,000,000</u>	<u>10,000,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy	\$2,485,000,000	\$2,195,000,000	\$290,000,000	\$0
Total FY 2020-21 Supplemental Appropriations	\$2,500,000,000	\$2,210,000,000	\$290,000,000	\$0

Fiscal Analyst: Steve Angelotti



**Legislation Introduced to Negate The Authority of Local
Units of Government to Prohibit Short Term Vacation
Rentals by Enacting Zoning Ordinances Passes
in the Michigan House of Representatives**

Passed by a vote of 55-47 during an extended session of the Michigan House of Representatives that ran into the early morning hours of this past Wednesday, the language of House Bill 4722 was formulated to prohibit local units of government from banning short-term vacation rentals by enacting zoning restrictions.

The introduction of the controversial legislation represents the third time in four years that special interests aligned with the increasingly powerful short term vacation rental industry such as Airbnb have attempted to pass legislation in Michigan that would act to limit or completely negate the authority of local units of government to utilize zoning ordinances to ban short term vacation rentals.

Suggesting that "the blanket bans some communities have issued against short-term rentals completely disregard the private property rights of Michigan citizens," House Bill 4722 was introduced by Springport Representative Sarah Lightner (R) in order to restore the right of Michigan families to "invest confidently in a home without worrying whether they will unexpectedly lose the ability to rent that home if they choose."

Those opposed to eliminating or degrading the authority of local units of government to regulate short term vacation rentals argue that local officials who are duly elected

by the citizens of a particular township, village, or municipality are in the best position to make sound decisions regarding the right of homeowners of rent their properties on a temporary basis to those seeking short term vacation rentals. Those expressing opposition to the legislation have also argued that an over abundance of available short term rental properties leads to unstable real estate markets, and reduces the number of homes located in the community that are available to those seeking permanent residences.

It is important to note that even though House Bill 4722 has passed in the Michigan House of Representatives, the controversial legislation would still need to be passed by the Michigan Senate, and signed by Governor Whitmer in order to become state law.

You may download and read Michigan House Bill 4722 as passed in the early morning hours of October 27th by [clicking here...](#)



The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy Announces the Availability of Watershed Council Support Funding

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) announces \$600,000 in funding under round two of the Watershed Council Support Program. Funds are available to support general organizational administration, conservation, and educational activities. Watershed Councils and Watershed Alliances established under State law as well as local units of government, tribal entities, colleges, universities, and entities with 501(c)(3) status working to improve water quality on a watershed basis are eligible for this funding. Individual grants are capped at \$40,000 and have a maximum one-year timeframe. No local match is required.

Funding priorities include projects that will:

- **Support capacity building or staff training within eligible grant entities.**

- **Make progress toward identifying and removing barriers to restoring and protecting water quality in Environmental Justice communities.**
- **Support or expand existing water quality improvement efforts, especially efforts in Environmental Justice communities.**
- **Purchase equipment and supplies to support new or existing water quality efforts.**
- **Develop proposals or proposal elements for other water quality funding opportunities.**
- **Update or develop elements of existing or new watershed management plans.**
- **Develop and distribute outreach materials using traditional and electronic formats.**
- **Translate and distribute environmental information to non-English speaking communities.**
- **Enhance community outreach or community involvement, especially efforts in Environmental Justice communities.**
- **Assess the feasibility of or result in the adoption of water quality ordinances.**

Full details are included in the [Request For Proposals](#) posted on the [EGLE Nonpoint Source Program website](#) along with all required forms and instructions.

Proposals are due on or before 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 1, 2021, and must be submitted via email to [EGLE- NPSGrants@Michigan.gov](mailto:EGLE-NPSGrants@Michigan.gov).

Selected projects will be awarded funding in the spring of 2022.

For additional information please contact [NPS Staff](#).

AIS DETECTORS

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



Understanding starry stonewort invasions in a changing climate.

About this webinar: Global climate change and the spread of invasive species are likely the two most important drivers of coming environmental change, but very little is understood about how they interact with each other. As part of an interdisciplinary project to evaluate how *Nitellopsis obtusa* (starry stonewort), a key emerging aquatic invasive plant in the Midwest, will respond to climate change and to identify optimal management approaches I have been tracking starry stonewort invasions in multiple lakes across the region. This approach allows me to use a latitudinal gradient in the range of starry stonewort, from Indiana to Minnesota, as a proxy for potential climate change. Additionally year to year differences in conditions offers a second source of

variability to understand the potential influence of different climate conditions. Over the past three years we have seen a surprising amount of variability with less consistent expansion of starry stonewort than had been expected from prior work. Notably this has included persistence and recovery of native species in particular circumstances. However, we have also seen indications that climate change (particularly warmer winters) could be associated with greater spread of starry stonewort.

Date: Wednesday, November 3, 2021

Time: 12:00 - 1:00 Central / 1:00 - 2:00 Eastern

[Register Here](#)





October 12, 2021

Contact: Joe Nohner, 517-284-6236; or Chip Kosloski, 517-284-5965

Nearly \$1.6 million in grant funding available for fisheries habitat conservation, dam removal and more

Project pre-proposals are due by Friday, November 12, 2021

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is offering nearly \$1.6 million in funding for a variety of activities tied to improving state fisheries and aquatic resources, including fish habitat conservation, dam removal and repair, resource assessment studies and providing access to recreation.

Distributed through three themes – aquatic habitat conservation, dam management, and aquatic habitat and recreation in the Au Sable, Manistee and Muskegon river watersheds – **Fisheries Habitat Grant** funding is available through an open, competitive process to local, state, federal and tribal governments and nonprofit groups.

“Healthy waters benefit all of us. Whether it’s better fishing, more resilient ecosystems or improved human safety, these projects have positive effects across Michigan,” said Joe Nohner, a resource analyst with the DNR Fisheries Division. “These grants help our partners protect and rehabilitate fisheries and waters in a state that relies heavily on those resources as a foundation for tourism and quality of life.”

Examples of proposed projects addressing the causes of habitat decline include efforts to:

- **Improve the management of riparian land (land situated near or on the water).**
- **Restore natural lake levels.**
- **Improve or create passage for aquatic organisms by removing culverts, dams and other barriers.**
- **Improve water quality.**
- **Implement watershed-based approaches to improving both the quality and quantity of water.**
- **Develop projects that demonstrate habitat conservation.**
- **Restore stream function.**
- **Add structural habitats, like woody habitat or aquatic vegetation.**
- **Conduct assessments that will guide conservation projects.**
- **Complete other projects that meet program goals.**

Grant and application guidelines

Grant applicants may apply for and receive funding from all three themes with one application, if eligible for each. Expected funding is derived from three sources, which are:

- **About \$1,140,000 from the Game and Fish Protection Fund, supporting the aquatic habitat conservation theme.**
- **\$265,000 from the state's General Fund, supporting the dam management theme.**
- **\$185,288 from a hydropower license and settlement agreement between Consumers Energy and several entities including the DNR, supporting aquatic habitat and recreation in the Au Sable, Manistee and Muskegon river watersheds.**

Applicants have the option of requesting funding from the current funding cycle or a conditional commitment from a future year's funding. Conditional commitments to very competitive projects allow recipients to leverage DNR contributions toward applications for additional funding sources for larger projects or secure a funding commitment based on other conditions. The available funding advertised in this announcement does not include \$257,817 in existing conditional commitments the DNR has made to partners from this year's grant funding.

Grant amounts start at a minimum of \$25,000 and have the potential to be as large as the total amount of funding available in all theme areas for which a project is eligible.

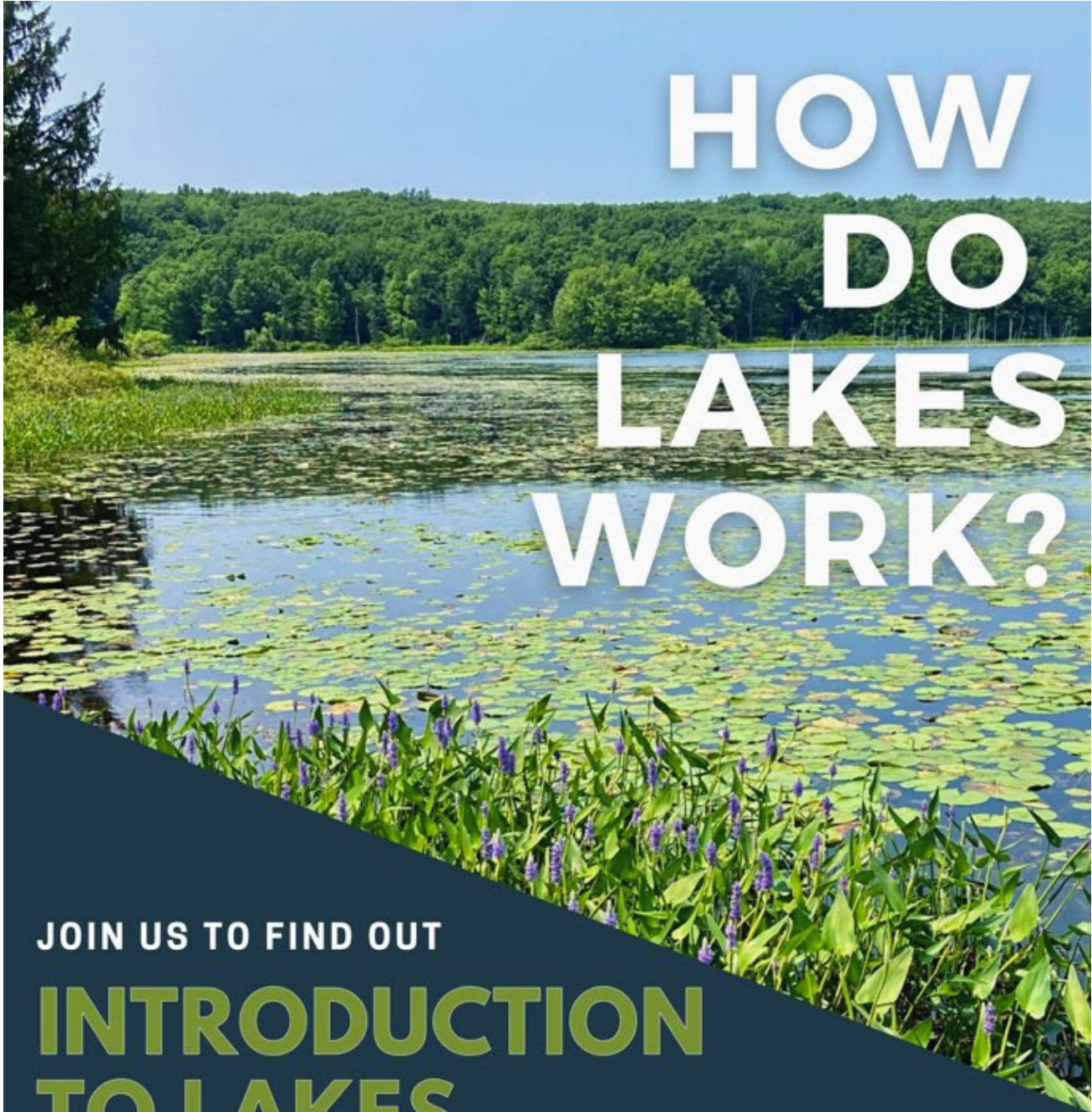
If necessary, smaller projects within the same region addressing similar issues can be bundled into a single grant proposal package to reach the minimum grant amount.

The DNR identifies specific priority projects, through its [Fisheries Priority Habitat Conservation Projects list](#), that will receive preference during proposal review.

Applications for projects on this list still will need to be competitive in other aspects, such as cost, appropriate methods and design, and applicant expertise, so grant awards are not expected to exclusively fund projects on this list. In previous grant cycles, about 40% of all funded projects were Fisheries Priority Habitat Conservation Projects.

All applicants must first discuss their project with a fisheries biologist, then complete and submit a short preproposal for DNR review. Pre-proposals must be submitted by email to Chip Kosloski at KosloskiC3@Michigan.gov no later than Friday, November 12. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their pre-proposal by December 14 and, if selected, will be invited to submit a full application.

An invitation to submit a full application does not guarantee project funding. Final funding announcements are expected to be made by May 31, 2022. The detailed program handbook, including timeline, pre-proposal guidelines and forms are available at Michigan.gov/DNRGrants.



HOW DO LAKES WORK?

JOIN US TO FIND OUT

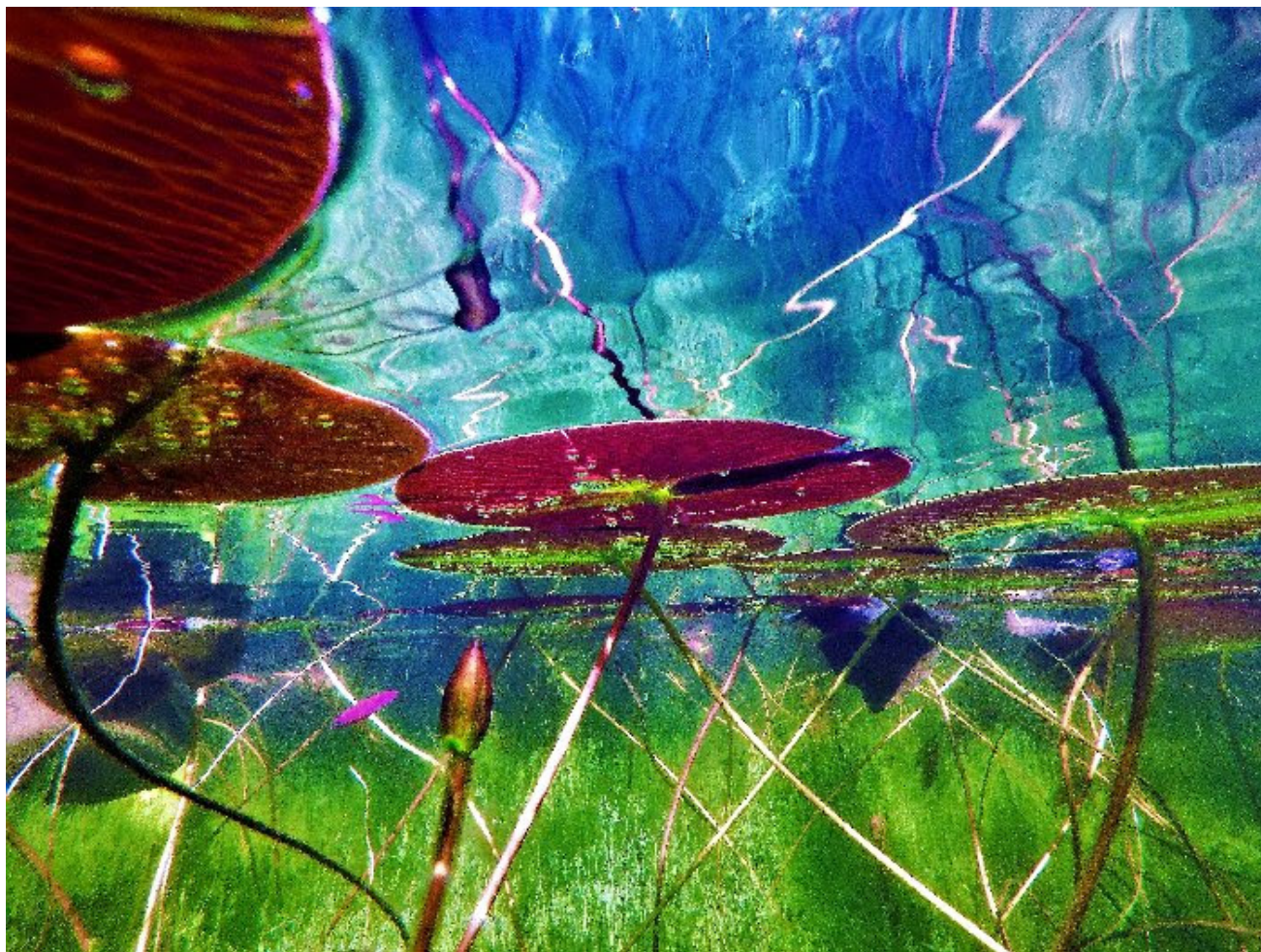
INTRODUCTION TO LAKES

6 WEEK ONLINE COURSE

canr.msu.edu/lakesonline

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension



ATTENTION READERS!!!

In order to add your friends, neighbors, and/or fellow lake or watershed conservation focused association

member e-mails to our growing list of water resource conservation minded people who would like to receive this Michigan freshwater resources focused twice monthly newsletter, contact Editor Scott Brown at scottb1952@gmail.com



>> We Need Your Help!!! <<

Why You Should Join Michigan Waterfront Alliance?

Do you care for your lake, river, or stream? Do you care enough to contact your state senator or representative about issues that affect your waterbody? Do you keep track of the bills that are important to your lake, river, or stream? The good news is that Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) is doing this for you. MWA hires a lobbying firm to keep track of issues and bills which may affect Michigan's waterfronts, and remain in constant contact with senators and representatives. These lobbyists have relationships with those serving in our state legislature, willing to present bills that MWA would support to help protect Michigan's inland waterways, and help to defeat bills that may be detrimental to our waterways. There is an old saying that "you can't

fight city hall.” This may be true if you do not know how, but with the help of MWA’s attorneys, MWA has the experts that know how to deal with legal issues. There have been laws interpreted incorrectly when it comes to our lakes, rivers, and streams. MWA, with its attorneys, has argued these cases when we believe the law has been misinterpreted.

While the MWA Board of Directors is made up of volunteers, it is expensive to hire lobbyists and attorneys. The Michigan Waterfront Alliance membership is made up of individuals, lake associations, and corporations who care about Michigan’s lakes, rivers, and streams. Would you like to be more involved? You can by becoming a member of Michigan Waterfront Alliance and by becoming an active partner in MWA. Membership in MWA is inexpensive:

**We rely entirely on membership dues to fund
the operating costs of our organization...**

**TO BECOME A MEMBER OF
MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE VISIT OUR
>>>>> MEMBERSHIP PAGE <<<<<**

Annual Dues are:

\$50 for an individual;

\$100 for a lake association; and

\$200 for a corporation

With support from individuals like you, lake associations, and corporations, we can continue to work together as a unified voice choosing to protect Michigan’s water resources for future generations. Thank you for your consideration!!!



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](#)

Visit the Michigan Waterfront Alliance Web Site by Clicking Here

[Unsubscribe](#)

This message was sent to olivia.kasle@gmail.com from scottb1952@gmail.com

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