



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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Four Lakes Task Force and Lake Associations Work to Lay the Groundwork for Rebuilding the Dams and Restoring the Four Inland Lakes Impacted by the May 2020 Tittabawassee River Disaster

Article and Photos by Bill Gebo
Vice-President
Sanford Lake Association

On May 19, 2020, four dams that created four large lakes on the Tittabawassee River system failed, draining or severely reducing the level of all four lakes and flooding hundreds of homes on the lakeshores, and in the city of Midland.

While this was big news across the state, and nationally, at the time, the people of the area have been living with the aftermath of this disaster for the last 18 months. After the initial cleanup, much work has been done to stabilize the dams in preparation for them to be rebuilt in order to restore the lakes. Residents of the four lakes have focused their efforts on this through the four lake associations and an organization named the Four Lakes Task Force. The Four Lakes Task Force is the Authority delegated by the Counties of Midland and Gladwin to manage the debris cleanup and the stabilization and reconstruction of the dams.



Along with the physical work involved, much discussion has taken place between representatives of the Four Lakes Task Force, together with the lake associations, and the offices of numerous state legislators. These local representatives have been requesting that the state legislature enact legislation to improve dam safety and provide funding for dam restoration and repair. There are currently four bills in both the state House and Senate dealing with these issues. In addition, there is MI Senate Bill 565 that includes money for dam repair along with funding for other water related infrastructure upgrades including failing septic systems, and lead water pipe replacement.

The lake associations of the four lakes support and manage the website RestoreTheLakes.org. The website is designed as a tool to help residents of the four lakes communicate with their elected officials about their desire to have the lakes restored. The website contains a summary of the issues that lake residents should

want to communicate to state legislators. It also has lists of various officials, along with their office, and email and postal addresses. Example letters and information points are also included. These letters and information points are periodically updated as legislation moves through the state House and Senate.

Michigan Senate Bill 565 Funding Appropriation

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

Editors Note: The Officers and Directors of the Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) wholeheartedly support MI Senate Bill 565, and all currently pending legislation that seeks to appropriate funding to enable the repair and restoration of not only the Tittabawassee River dams mentioned in the article above but to also restore hundreds of dams distributed throughout Michigan that due to their age, and/or deficient design are known to be in imminent danger of catastrophic failure.

It is also important to note that in addition to providing funding allocated to dam repair and/or restoration, MI Senate 565 also provides much needed funding to help restore clean drinking water by replacing lead pipes, fund the repair or replacement of failing septic systems, provide clean water infrastructure grants, fund wetlands mitigation grants, and to provide PFAS remediation grants.

The passage of Senate Bill 565 is critical to helping to ensure a safe and viable future for hundreds of Michigan communities and millions of our fellow citizens! MWA therefore encourages all of our readers to reach out to their respective State Representatives and Senators in order to express their support for this critical legislation. Readers can find their State Senators by [clicking here](#) ; and their State Representatives by [clicking here](#) .





Register today! canr.msu.edu/lakesonline

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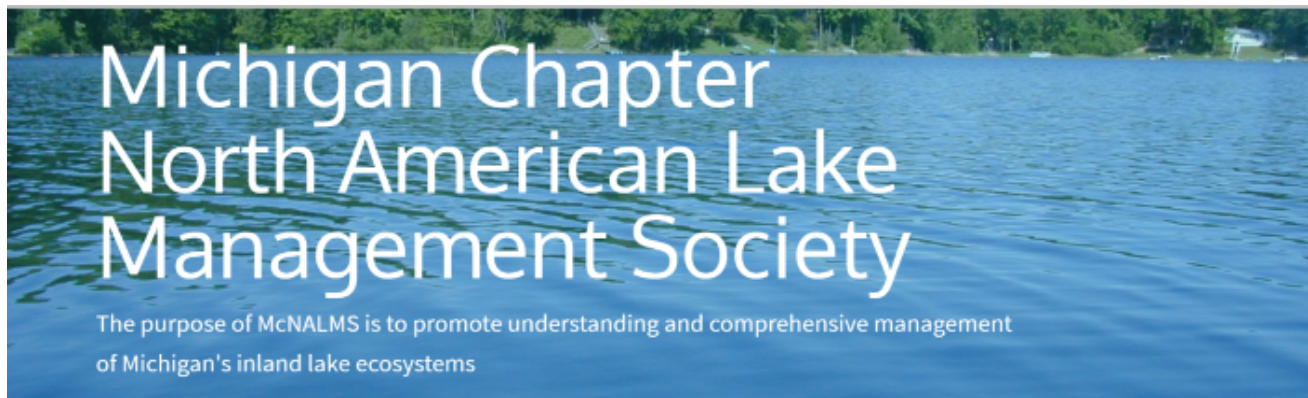
Learn about inland lakes on-line from MSU Extension

Registration for the award-winning Michigan State University Extension [Introduction to Lakes Online course](#) is now open! This six-week online course runs January 25-March 16, 2022 and is designed for anyone interested in inland lakes, including lakefront property owners, recreational users, and managers. Course topics include lake ecology, watershed management, shoreline protection, aquatic plants, Michigan water law, and community engagement. Each topic is explored through pre-recorded video lectures, interactive activities, and discussion forums. In addition, there are three live Ask-an-Expert webinars featuring experts from Michigan State University, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

Registration is open now through January 21, 2022. The cost of the course is \$115 per person. Register by January 3, 2022 for an early bird price of \$95.00.

Register here for the [MSU Extension Introduction to Lakes On-line Course](#)





[Click here](#) to download and read the
Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society
Fall 2021 Newsletter



DNR asks anglers to turn in adipose fin clipped fish

Contact: Randy Claramunt, 231-622-3820; or Jay Wesley, 616-490-5090

Agency: MI Department of Natural Resources

Nov. 9, 2021

Have you caught a trout or salmon in Michigan that had an adipose fin clip? If so, it could contain a tag with valuable information.

Through mass marking assistance by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, several Great Lakes states, including Michigan, mark popular gamefish like steelhead, Chinook salmon, Atlantic salmon, brown trout and lake trout.

The adipose fin - a small, fleshy fin behind the larger dorsal fin - is found on only a few fish, including trout, salmon and catfish. Most trout and salmon with an adipose fin clip also have a coded-wire tag in their snout. The tag is small, like the tip of a lead pencil, so it must be removed by lab technicians. If anglers catch an adipose fin clipped fish, they should turn in the head at a local drop-off station in Michigan.



The small, ear-shaped adipose fin is located on top of the fish, to the left of the larger dorsal fin. On a clipped-fin fish, this fin would be missing.

"We have creel clerks at some ports, but there are several areas where we don't have staff, including on river systems with unique fisheries, such as Atlantic salmon or steelhead," said Randy Claramunt, Lake Huron Basin coordinator with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. "To get enough tag returns to learn about these species, we need the help of our anglers to voluntarily turn in heads."

According to Jay Wesley, Lake Michigan Basin coordinator, fish tag returns help biologists understand survival, age and movements of important sport fish.

"We are particularly interested in confirming the wild contribution of Chinook salmon to the fishery, movement and wild contribution of steelhead in lakes and rivers, and survival and movement of Atlantic salmon," Wesley said.

For more information on how to recognize a tagged fish and how to fill out the proper information, visit Michigan.gov/TaggedFish.

MI Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grants Now Available!

**\$25,600 is available for
passionate organizations
dedicated to aquatic
invasive species education.
Grant applications close on
Dec. 17th, 2021.**

For more information:
www.micbcw.com



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Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grants Now Available

Calling all lake associations, watershed groups, non-profits, and local and tribal units of government! The Michigan Clean Boats, Clean Waters program has grant funding available to support your aquatic invasive species outreach efforts. This funding opportunity is for any organization dedicated to boater education about aquatic invasive species and the protection of Michigan's waterways.

Funding requests can range from \$1,000 to \$3,000 and do not require local match or cost sharing. Clean Boats, Clean Waters grants can be used for a variety of activities including signage, invasive species removal supplies such as plant removal tools, sponges and towels, and staff time to perform watercraft inspections and demonstrations of boat cleaning techniques.

Interested groups can apply for a grant now on the [Clean Boats, Clean Waters website](http://www.micbcw.com). The deadline to apply is **December 17, 2021**. This is a competitive funding

opportunity and complete applications will be ranked based on eligibility, project significance, and overall strategy. Learn more and apply today !





The MI 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](#).



Funding available for natural resource restoration in the Saginaw Bay watershed

Contact: Georgia Parham, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 812-334-4261, Ext. 203 John Pepin, Michigan DNR, 906-226-1352 Hugh McDiarmid, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and, Energy, 517-230-7724 Frank Cloutier, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe

Agency: Natural Resources

November 4, 2021

This news release is being issued jointly today by the The Natural Resource Trustees for the Tittabawassee River and the Saginaw River and Bay to alert the public to settlement funding available to restore natural resources in the Saginaw Bay Watershed. The Michigan DNR is one of the Trustees acting on behalf of the public.

The Tittabawassee River and the Saginaw River and Bay Natural Resource Trustee Councils are jointly announcing the availability of funding for restoration projects to

be implemented in the Saginaw Bay watershed, including in and along the Tittabawassee and Saginaw rivers.

This funding is derived from two sources, a 2020 settlement with The Dow Chemical Company and a 1998 settlement with General Motors and others for natural resource damages. The two Trustee Councils will provide approximately \$5.7 million to fund restoration projects, in addition to projects already specified in the two settlements.

The Trustees are asking people to submit pre-proposals that the Trustee Councils will then screen and evaluate for their merit relative to restoration project criteria. The criteria that the Trustees will use to evaluate restoration proposals are described within the respective restoration plans for the Tittabawassee River and the Saginaw River and Bay.

A web-based application portal will be used to collect project ideas from the public and other stakeholders as pre-proposals. Access to the application portal, the restoration plans and a summary of the criteria to be used to evaluate pre-proposals may be found at a [website for the Tittabawassee River](#).

Restoration project pre-proposals must be submitted by Dec. 31, 2021. Following evaluation of the pre-proposals submitted, the Trustees will jointly develop a restoration plan that includes proposed restoration projects that rank highly based on the Trustees' criteria.

The Trustees will then release a draft of this restoration plan, with specific projects proposed for funding, for public review and comment in mid- to late 2022. The Trustees will evaluate public comments and respond to them as they finalize the restoration plan. Funding for projects selected in the final restoration plan will likely be available in 2023 and may require full proposals or scopes of work be submitted to the Trustee agency administering the funding for each project.

Restoration projects must provide some benefit to the natural resources that were injured as a result of the release of contaminants at issue in one of the relevant court settlements. The contaminants at issue in the two settlements are dioxins and furans in the Dow settlement and polychlorinated biphenyls in the General Motors settlement.

Restoration projects may also improve public use or enjoyment of those natural resources, if they meet the requirement that they also benefit the relevant injured natural resources. Projects anywhere in the Saginaw Bay watershed may be eligible for funding, but projects most closely linked to the areas in and around the Tittabawassee River, downstream of Midland, the Saginaw River and Saginaw Bay that were more impacted by contaminants will tend to rank higher.

Examples of appropriate projects that address injuries to natural resources may be found within the respective restoration plans for these two cases: the [Tittabawassee River Restoration Plan](#) and the [Saginaw River and Bay Restoration Plan](#).

The Natural Resource Trustees represent the public to accomplish the mission of restoring, rehabilitating, replacing or acquiring the equivalent natural resources, and the services those natural resources provide, that have been injured from the release of hazardous substances.

The Natural Resource Trustees for the Tittabawassee River and the Saginaw River and Bay include the State of Michigan, acting through the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and Michigan Department of Attorney General; the United States Department of the Interior, acting through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan.





The Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership (MGLP) brings together resource agencies, non-profit organizations, and other stakeholders to protect, rehabilitate, and enhance sustainable fish habitats in naturally formed lakes of the Midwest. We foster collaborations on fish habitat science, education and outreach, and conservation.

Request for proposals: 2023 Lake Conservation Grant

We request project proposals for funding from the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership (MGLP) 2023 Lake Conservation Grant. The MGLP is one of twenty partnerships that span the nation under the umbrella of the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP). The MGLP area of focus is glacial lakes and their watersheds as depicted by the recently updated service area in the second article below. Nine Midwestern states, federal agencies including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Geological Survey, and the U.S. Forest Service, tribal partners, and private natural resource entities including The Nature Conservancy, have been integral partners in the development and operation of the MGLP.



Examples of past MGLP projects that have restored natural shorelines (left; photo by Mark Keiser), removed fish passage barriers (center; Joe Nohner), and assessed nutrient loading in the watershed (right; Jerry Sweeten).

We support conservation projects that work toward meeting the goals and objectives set forth in the MGLP Strategic Plan to benefit glacial lake fish habitats, which include addressing the chemical, physical, and biological components of the habitats

that fishes found in glacial lakes use throughout their lives. We have directed funding toward a wide range of aquatic conservation projects that benefit imperiled, endangered, and recreational fish species and their habitats. We typically fund 3-5 projects annually between \$30,000 and \$100,000, but larger projects will be considered for funding up to a maximum of the approximately \$360,000 expected for distribution. Projects have been successfully implemented because contributions and capabilities of many partners have been combined to accomplish project goals that none of the partnering entities could accomplish on their own.

Projects considered for funding must align with the goals and objectives of the MGLP and can range in scale from projects that affect one or more sites, lakes, or watersheds. Projects should address the processes that cause fish habitat impairments as opposed to managing or treating the symptoms of those causes. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- projects that implement or demonstrate new approaches
- watershed-level nutrient control projects;
- water quality and erosion control measures;
- native vegetation or wetland rehabilitation;
- natural riparian or in-lake habitat restoration and protection;
- barrier removal for improved native fish passage;
- fish population or watershed assessments needed for project evaluation;
- habitat assessment, prioritization and planning for future habitat projects;
- evaluating current and future habitat conditions;
- projects addressing climate change adaptation or mitigation through fish habitat;
- projects training biologists and managers on inland lake fish habitat management tools and approaches; and
- community outreach and education on the importance of and how to better conserve glacial lake fish habitat.

In addition to conducting independent outreach and/or education, successful applicants will be expected to work with the MGLP to coordinate media and public outreach to raise the profile of MGLP-funded projects.

If you have a lake conservation project aligned with the goals and objectives of the MGLP and need financial assistance, we encourage you to submit a proposal for project funding. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Nohner at nohnerj@michigan.gov or 517-284-6236 or Gary Whelan, MGLP Steering Chair, at whelang@michigan.gov. Applications for funding are available at the Lake Conservation Grant website. Applications are due on February 18, 2022, and you can

submit your application by emailing it to MGLP Coordinator Joe Nohner at nohnerj@michigan.gov.



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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