



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.





Collaborative, Bi-national Fish Habitat Study Reaffirms the Importance of Wetlands, and Natural Shorelines in Promoting Abundant Bass and Bluegill populations

Article and Photo by Scott Brown

The recently released summary of the findings of a bi-national fish study conducted on Lake St. Clair serves to emphasize the critical role that wetlands and other natural shoreline features play in promoting and sustaining healthy freshwater fish populations. Focusing on relatively small fish such as minnows, bluegill, and sunfish as well as the young of species such as largemouth and smallmouth bass that ultimately mature into much larger fish, the Collaborative Lake St. Clair Fishery Assessment was conducted by fisheries biologists from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry, and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The primary goal of the study was to help fisheries biologists understand how many of the small fish

exist within the lake, and to also identify exactly what type of shoreline habitat serves to promote their abundance. The most important finding of the study is indicated by the fact that the keystone fish were found to be ten times more abundant in areas of the lake featuring nearshore and shoreline habitat consisting of wetlands, and other natural features in comparison to more urbanized areas on the Michigan side of the lake where shorelines now consist primarily of steel seawalls, piles of rock and concrete, and other forms of artificial shoreline armoring.

Even though Lake St. Clair possesses a surface area of only 430 square miles it is considered to be an important bi-national resource due to the fact that it is connected to Lake Huron by the St. Clair River, and to Lake Erie by the Detroit River, and is therefore considered one of the busiest waterways in the world due to the fact that 5,000 ships transit the lake each year on their way to and from commercial ports located within the expansive Great Lakes, and to locations far beyond the region via the St. Lawrence Seaway.

It is also important to note that Lake St. Clair's remaining coastal wetlands, located primarily on the Ontario side of the lake, also provide critical habitat to a diverse array of fish, reptiles, migratory birds, and amphibians. The large inland lake also provides an array of highly valuable ecological, recreational, and commercial benefits, including drinking water, to millions of people who live on or near the lake in southeast Michigan and southern Ontario.

Conducted on both the Michigan and Ontario sides of Lake St. Clair, fisheries biologists deployed fyke nets at 110 locations around the lake in areas defined by both hardened and natural shorelines, and recorded both the quantity and type of fish that swam into the nets. Reporting the findings of their study within the context of a written summary recently submitted to The Detroit News, the fisheries biologists wrote that "the overall fish catch rate was 10 times higher on the Canadian side of the lake, likely related to better nearshore habitat." In sharp contrast to hardened shorelines comprised of seawalls or piles of concrete, natural shorelines and nearshore habitat comprised of emergent, floating, and submerged aquatic plants such as cattails, bulrush, water lilies, and pondweeds provide small fish such as bluegill and young bass with an ideal habitat within which to forage for abundant aquatic insects, protection from predation, and an ideal habitat for spawning and supporting young fish.

To learn more about the multi-faceted benefits of preserving, and/or restoring natural shorelines, visit the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership at <https://www.mishorelinepartnership.org/>.



Register today! canr.msu.edu/lakesonline

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY | Extension

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](#)



MI Legislative Update

Legislation Introduced to Limit the Authority of Local Governments to Regulate Aggregate Mining and Short Term Vacation Rentals Pending Further Action in Lansing

Introduced by Rep. Sarah Lightner, R-Springport Township, and passed by the Michigan House of Representatives by a margin of 55-48 this past spring, [House Bill 4722](#) would act to severely limit the authority of local units of government to regulate short term rentals. The primary language of the bill indicates that “a local unit of government shall not adopt or enforce zoning ordinance provisions that have the effect of prohibiting short-term rentals.” Compromise language in the bill would allow local units of government limited authority to oversee short term rentals in instances where local noise and traffic ordinances are violated due to significantly increased numbers of summer vacation season short term renters. Local units of government would also maintain the authority to set limits on the number of available short-term rentals, as long the established limit is not less than 30 percent of existing residential units in the municipality.

Supported by the Michigan Realtors and the Mackinaw Center for Public Policy, if passed by the Senate, and signed by Governor Whitmer, the legislation would allow a large number of local home owners to rent their property on a short term basis via services like Airbnb to summer vacationers. Arguing that local units of governments lead by duly elected officials are in the best overall position to determine a particular community's suitability to allow short term rentals, the Michigan Municipal League and the Michigan Association of Planning are adamantly opposed to the legislation.

House Bill 4722 has been referred to the Michigan Senate Committee on Regulator Reform, and is pending further action by the Michigan Senate.

Legislation passed by the Michigan Senate this past June which would deprive local units of government of the capacity to issue permits, and to otherwise regulate gravel and sand mining operations is pending action by the Michigan House of Representatives. SB 431 would make the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) responsible for issuing permits for gravel and sand mining operations, and would also require EGLE to assess fees on sand and gravel products for the purpose of funding the need for the agency to monitor, administer, and enforce mining operation regulations. If passed, the legislation would also make EGLE ultimately responsible for taking action if a particular mining operation presented an imminent danger to public health and safety, or pose a threat to the local environment.

The controversial legislation is supported by the Michigan Aggregate Association who indicates that the legislation is necessary to help ensure ample supplies of sand and gravel that are used extensively in highway construction projects. The legislation is opposed by the Michigan Townships Association, Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Association of Counties, Michigan Association of Planning, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Michigan Environmental Council, and the Michigan League of Conservation Voters who argue that the legislation unnecessarily deprives local officials of the ability to issue permits, and to pass and enforce common sense local ordinances intended to help ensure the aggregate mines are operated in a manner that protects the environment, and the health and safety of local citizens.



Webinar: Does Climate Change Impact Our Lakes?

December 13 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm CST

“Does Climate Change Impact Our Lakes?”

7 p.m. – Larry Marsicano, Aquatic Ecosystem Research LLC, WCSU Limnology Instructor, will introduce the topic and speaker.

7:10 p.m. – David C. Richardson, Professor, Biology Department, New Paltz, who will discuss “Lake Warming and Increased Stratification at Mohonk Lake Across Northeastern North American Lakes.”

7:45 p.m. – Audience Q & A

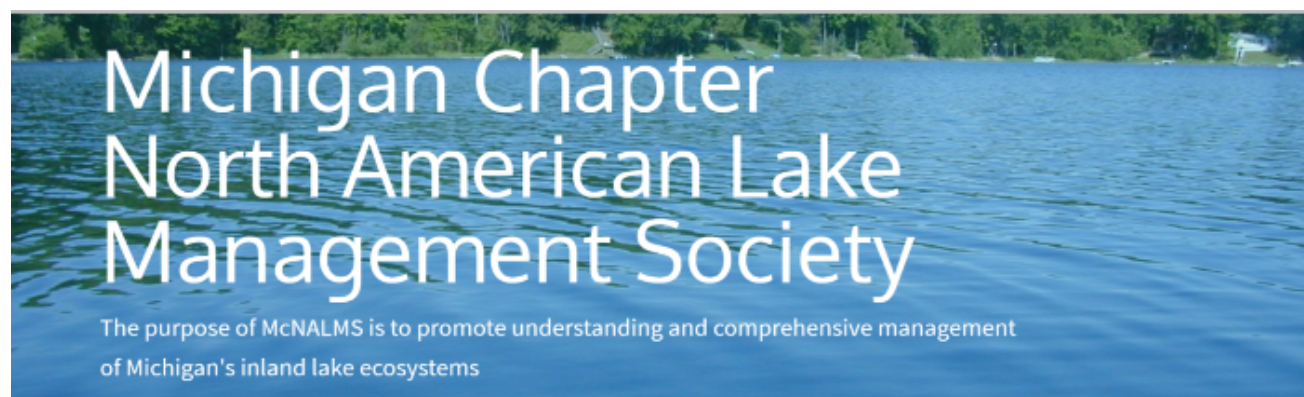
8 p.m. – Dr. Ben Burpee, Ph.D., Limnologist, GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc, Coventry, CT who will discuss “Ecological Effects of Recent Climate Change on Southern New England Lakes and Reservoirs: Implications for Water Quality and Management”

8:30 p.m. – Audience Q & A

8:45 p.m. – Symposium summary and “Where do we go from here?”

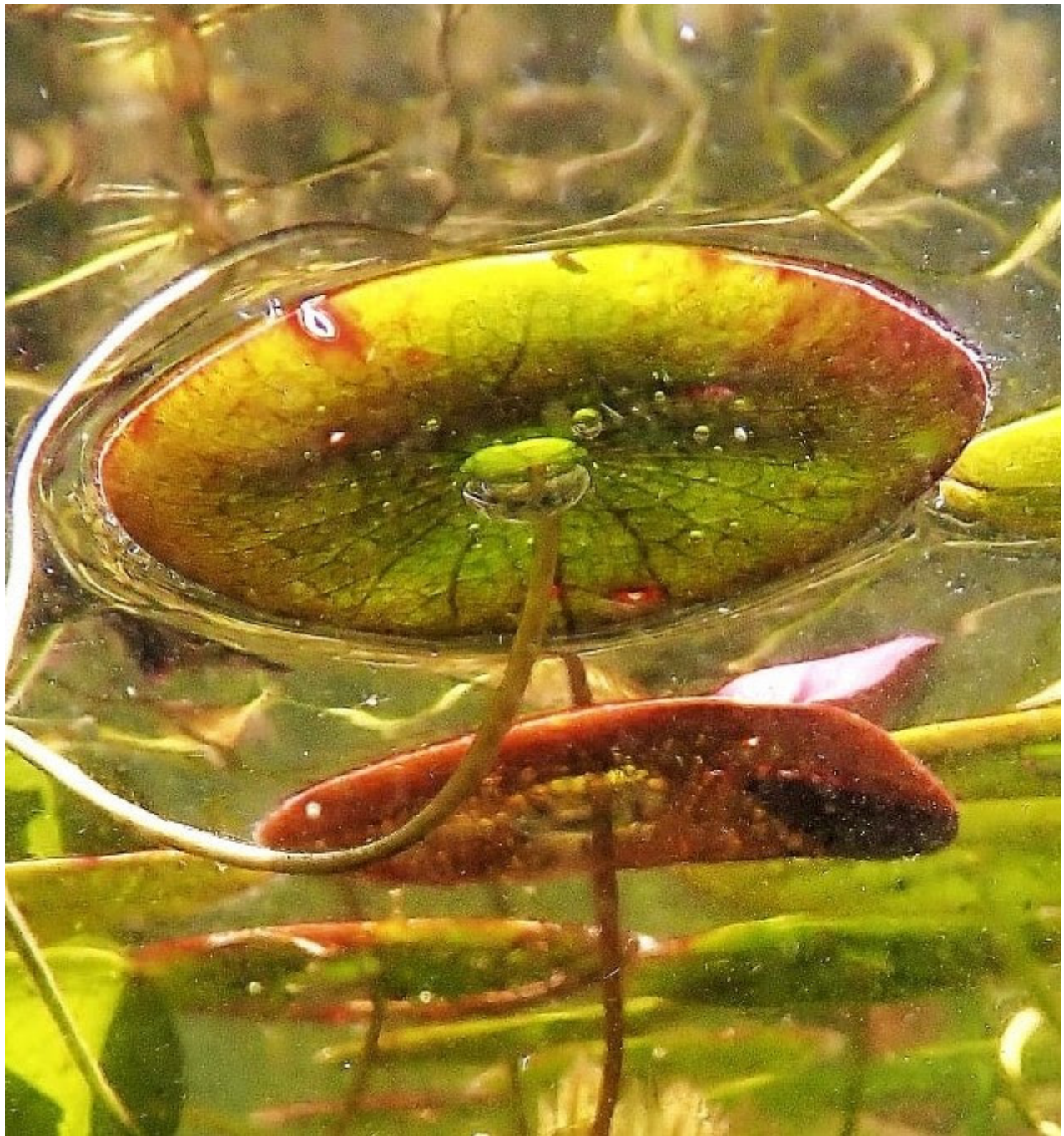
Registration is required.

Register at <https://westconn.tfaforms.net/217>.



[Click here](#) to download and read the

**Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society
Fall 2021 Newsletter**



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



MICHIGAN STATE
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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.

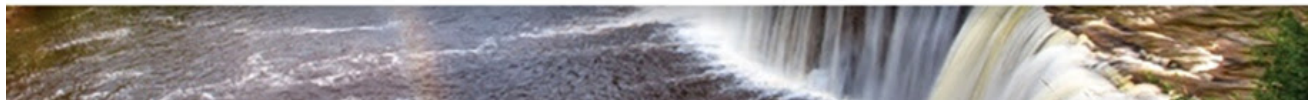
Funding requests can range from \$1,000 to \$3,000 and do not require local match or cost sharing. Clean Boats, Clean Waters grants can be used for a variety of activities including signage, invasive species removal supplies such as plant removal tools, sponges and towels, and staff time to perform watercraft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



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY



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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