



Photo by Scott Brown

## Welcome to the Michigan Waterfront Alliance Update for Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022



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**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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## **Legislation Intended to Eliminate the Authority of Local Units of Government to Make Decisions Regarding Sand and Gravel Mining Operations and Short-term Vacation Rentals Still Under Consideration by the MI Legislature**

Legislation intended to effectively eliminate the authority of local units of government in Michigan to approve, deny, and/or to otherwise regulate sand and gravel mining operations and short-term vacation rentals may be up for consideration by the Michigan legislature in the upcoming post-election legislative session.

Legislation intended to eliminate the authority of local units of government to approve, deny, and/or to otherwise regulate sand and gravel mining in the form of [Senate Bills 429, 430 and 431](#) have already passed the MI Senate, and could be taken up by the MI House of Representatives at any point during the remainder of the current legislative session. If passed by both the MI Senate and MI House, and signed by the Governor, the legislation would eliminate local jurisdiction over the issuance of a permit, or authority to regulate the location and operation of aggregate mines. The bill would also place sole authority for the approval and regulation of sand and gravel mines with the State of Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Environment (EGLE). Moreover, the legislation would not permit EGLE to deny an application, and would also not require that a public meeting be conducted in order to gather input from the citizens of impacted communities.

Legislation that would effectively eliminate the authority of local units of government, including township and county governments, to regulate short term rentals in the form of [HB 4722](#) which has already passed the MI House of Representatives would, if passed by the MI Senate and signed by the Governor, amend the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act to establish the rental of a dwelling—including, but not limited to, short-term rentals—to be a residential use of property that is permitted in all residential zoning districts, and would not to be considered a commercial use or subject to any permit requirements different from those applicable to other dwellings in the same zone. The bill would not, however, prohibit the passage of local zoning ordinances intended to regulate noise, advertising, traffic, or other nuisances related to the rental of a dwelling, but only if such regulations are applied consistently to owner-occupied residences.

Michigan Waterfront Alliance is committed to the idea that local units of government, with input from local citizens, should maintain the ultimate authority to approve, deny, and/or to otherwise regulate sand and gravel mines, and to pass ordinances intended to establish local policy in regard to short term vacation rentals.

To find your MI State Senator, and their contact information, [click here](#)

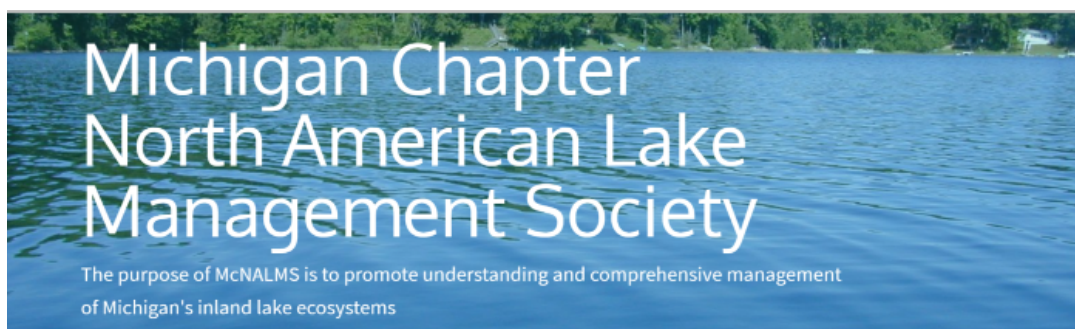
To find your MI State Representative, and their contact information, [click here](#)

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**To read the Fall 2022 Edition of the Michigan Chapter,  
North American Lake Management Society Newsletter**

**[click here](#)**



**Lend Us a Helpful Hand in Improving our Ability to Distribute  
this e-Newsletter to Others Who May Also Have an Interest in  
Protecting Michigan's Incredible Fresh Water Resources**

**Please Consider Sharing Your e-Mail Lists with  
Michigan Waterfront Alliance**

The overall capacity of Michigan Waterfront Alliance to positively influence freshwater resource conservation related public policy in Lansing is ultimately dependent upon our ability to effectively communicate via this virtual newsletter with as many citizen stakeholders as possible.

Lake associations, and/or fresh water resources protection focused non-profit organizations willing to share their membership or affiliate e-mail lists with Michigan Waterfront Alliance may rest assured that under no circumstances do we ever sell or otherwise make our e-mails lists available to commercial marketing entities.

Those willing to learn more about sharing your organization's e-mail distribution lists with Michigan Waterfront Alliance, and therefore improving our ability to positively influence freshwater resource management in Michigan, should contact newsletter editor Scott Brown at e-mail [scottb1952@gmail.com](mailto:scottb1952@gmail.com)

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DIVE INTO LAKE LEARNING

# INTRODUCTION TO LAKES ONLINE

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



**6 WEEK ONLINE COURSE  
STARTS JAN. 10**

[canr.msu.edu/lakesonline](https://canr.msu.edu/lakesonline)

## Learn about Michigan's inland lakes online from MSU Extension

Registration for the award-winning Michigan State University Extension [Introduction to Lakes Online](https://canr.msu.edu/lakesonline) course is now open! This six-week online course kicks-off January 10<sup>th</sup> and is designed for anyone interested in inland lakes, including concerned citizens, decision makers, local leaders, resource professionals, and lakefront property owners. Course topics include lake ecology, watershed management, shoreline protection, aquatic plants, Michigan water law, and community engagement.

These topics are explored via video lectures, interactive activities, and discussion forums. Additional resources are also provided for those looking to dive deeper into a topic. Participants communicate with each other and instructors through lively discussion forums and biweekly Ask-an-Expert webinars.

Registration is open now through January 8, 2023. The cost of the course is \$115 per person. Register by December 19, 2022 for an early bird price of \$95 per person.

A certificate of completion is awarded to those who complete the course. Participants can also receive 16 Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Pesticide Applicator Re-Certification credits and credits in the MSU Extension Master Citizen Planner, Master Gardener, and Master Naturalist programs.

[Click here](https://canr.msu.edu/lakesonline) to learn more about Michigan State University Extension Introduction to Lakes On-line

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# AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE

Michigan Clean Boats, Clean Waters is awarding grants to organizations addressing aquatic invasive species awareness through education and outreach. \$25,000 total is available for groups across Michigan (up to \$3,000 per award). Grants can be used for signage, outreach materials, events, and much more!



For more information, please visit [canr.msu.edu/cbcw/minigrants](https://canr.msu.edu/cbcw/minigrants)



## Michigan Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grants

Clean Boats, Clean Waters grants supply up to \$3,000 to organizations communicating aquatic invasive species prevention information through outreach materials and in-person educational events to boaters. This funding opportunity is competitive, and applications will be subject to a review process and ranked based on program eligibility, project significance, and overall strategy. Examples of previous grant funded projects can be found at the bottom of this webpage.

Applicants are highly encouraged to partner with other conservation organizations and to conduct boater outreach on a regional scale. Organizations qualified for the [Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program \(MISGP\)](#) (e.g., CISMAs) should pursue MISGP funds to perform boater outreach activities. CISMAs can provide support to organizations in their area that are applying for this funding.

CBCW is a joint effort between Michigan State University Extension and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). Funding for CBCW and this grant opportunity is provided by a short-term grant through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in partnership with EGLE.

### 2023 Grant Opportunity

The grant application period is now open. Applications will be accepted until December 16, 2022. Applicants will be informed by March 2023 of grant award.

### Eligible organizations

- Local or tribal units of government
- Lake associations/watershed protection groups
- Non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations



#### Funding amount

- The grant request amount should range from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per grantee.
- There is no match or cost sharing requirement.
- Funds will be distributed via a one-time reimbursement of eligible expenses.
- Any budget or project changes after a grant has been awarded must be approved in writing.

#### Required grant activities

Grantees must complete all of the following activities:

- Grantee agrees to host a minimum of three outreach events with CBCW approved outreach materials.
- Grantee and/or volunteers will review required CBCW training materials (approximately 1 hour of educational instruction).
- Grantee and/or volunteers will collect and report data on the number of people contacted, volunteer hours (if applicable), number of outreach materials distributed, and latitude/longitude of locations (minimum of waterbody name, county, and township) for all events and signage.
- Grantee will submit one narrative report of all grant funded activities and expenditures to MSU Extension. A template will be provided to assist with narrative report creation.
- The narrative report must contain a minimum of five photos of products and/or outreach conducted. Narrative report is due October 31, 2023, or at the time of reimbursement request.
- Grantee will submit all receipts/invoices for reimbursement by October 31, 2023. MSU Extension will not issue payment to the grantee until all receipts have been submitted. One-time payment will be issued within 60 days of receiving receipts and report of grantee activities.

[Click here](#) to download the 2023 MI Invasive Species Grant Program application.

*Note: The grant application will download as a Microsoft Word file. If you have accessibility issues, please contact Kelsey Bockelman at [bockelm4@msu.edu](mailto:bockelm4@msu.edu)*

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## **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**





**>> 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!!!

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## 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