
Michigan Waterfront Alliance Update for Monday, October 16, 2023

1 message



Photo by Scott Brown

Welcome to the Michigan Waterfront Alliance
Update for Monday, October 16, 2023



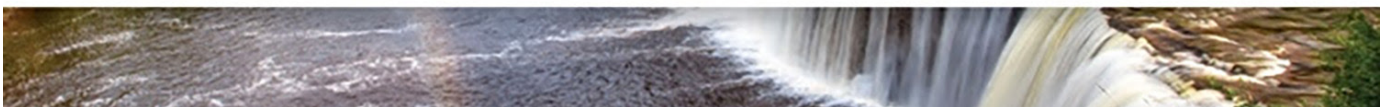
Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) is a 501(c) 4 non-profit corporation formed over twenty years ago in order to effectively advocate for the creation or preservation of state laws, and/or policies designed to protect, preserve, and promote the sustainable and wise use of our state's immense treasure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



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MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

EGLE Media Office, EGLE-Assist@Michigan.gov, 517-284-9278

Nearly \$1 billion in low-interest State Revolving Fund loans help Michigan communities upgrade water infrastructure, protect health, environment

Critical water system upgrades are in the works in dozens of Michigan communities thanks to \$933 million in low-interest loans from the State Revolving Fund (SRF). The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) issued SRF funding to 71 projects across the state in fiscal year 2023 for water system upgrades.

These projects reduce the risk of contaminants entering drinking water, surface water and ground water resources across the state and reduce pressure on local governments to raise water rates. Funds for these low interest financing programs come from the [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund](#) and the [Clean Water State Revolving Fund](#) – mixes of federal and state dollars dedicated to financing community water projects.

Requests for the loan dollars was overwhelming, as cities, villages and towns across Michigan struggle to maintain deteriorating infrastructure operating well beyond its intended lifespan. Properly functioning water systems are crucial to Michiganders' quality of life – from the water flowing from taps to the numerous lakes and streams that provide amazing recreational opportunities and flood control. Effective infrastructure is often taken for granted until it fails, impacting the well-being of people and the environment.

The SRF loans assess interest rates well below market rate and provide the opportunity for communities to secure principal forgiveness – a portion of the loan that does not have to be repaid. In fiscal year 2023, \$133 million in loan awards were forgiven for communities with financial hardships.

Demand has outpaced available funding however, with community requests for project financing totaling nearly three times available funding.

“Subsidized interest rates, the ability to offer extended loan terms, and process improvements to remove application barriers have resulted in historic demand on the SRF,” said Paul McDonald, EGLE’s chief financial officer. “These long-term, low interest loans help communities reduce pressure to raise funds quickly for critical upgrades.”

“The State Revolving Funds have provided financing opportunities for communities undertaking water infrastructure improvements over the past 30 plus years,” said Kelly Green, administrator of EGLE’s SRF programs. “Long term financing options at very low interest rates help communities and infrastructure users invest in their system’s capital

improvement needs. EGLE’s unique understanding of water infrastructure systems and challenges sets up communities utilizing SRF for long term success.”

“Local governments are eager to do right by their constituents – in this case securing financing can protect their health and natural resources without big rate increases,” said Phil Roos, EGLE director. We are constantly looking for opportunities to leverage state and federal dollars to provide assistance to our local partners.”

Detailed information on the low-interest loans issued to communities this year can be found by accessing the [SRF visual dashboard](#). The dashboard also contains information on every loan issued under the SRF programs.

Those interested in hearing more about EGLE grants and loans may subscribe to “EGLE grant and loan opportunities” communications and others [at this link](#).

Descriptions of funding sources

[Drinking Water State Revolving Fund](#) (DWSRF): Low-interest loan program to help public water systems finance the costs of replacement and repair of drinking water infrastructure to protect public health and achieve or maintain compliance with federal Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. As water systems repay their loans, the repayments and interest flow back into the DWSRF to support new loans.

[Clean Water State Revolving Fund](#) (CWSRF): Used by local municipalities to finance construction of water pollution control projects. These projects include wastewater treatment plant upgrades and expansions, combined or sanitary sewer overflow abatement, new sewers designed to reduce existing sources of pollution, and other publicly owned wastewater treatment efforts that improve water quality. The CWSRF can also finance storm water infrastructure projects to reduce nonpoint sources of water pollution caused by runoff to lakes, streams, and wetlands.

A banner image for the Michigan Chapter North American Lake Management Society. It features a background of a calm blue lake with green trees and a small building on the distant shore. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Michigan Chapter North American Lake Management Society

The purpose of McNALMS is to promote understanding and comprehensive management of Michigan's inland lake ecosystems



MI Chapter

North American Lake Management Society

**2023 Lunch and Learn:
Current Perspectives on Wake Boats**

The Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society is excited to announce its next in person Lunch and Learn event. The topic will be on Wake Boats, and we'll have two guest speakers, Joe Nohner, Inland Lakes Habitat Analyst & Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership Coordinator, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Nicki Polan,

Executive Director, Michigan Boating Industries Association. Wake boats are powerboats specially designed to increase wave height for watersports, such as surfing or tubing. Their popularity and sales have soared over the last decade. Several studies on wake boats and their effects on inland lakes have identified issues ranging from damage to shorelines, piers, and docks to hazardous conditions for swimmers and small non-motorized craft. Recently the Michigan DNR Fisheries Division released a report on voluntary best operating practices in support of the continued use of wake boats while minimizing the effects on natural resources and near shore property. The Michigan Boating Industries Association has publicized Wake Responsibilities through flyers, handouts, and signage and provided guidelines for operation of these vessels. Each speakers will discuss their agency's or organization's perspectives on wake boats and recommendations to minimize impacts.

JOIN US FROM 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2023

**IN BRODY HALL, ROOM 134 LOCATED ON THE MSU CAMPUS IN EAST
LANSING**

**Registration for this interesting and
informative event is now open !!!**

TO REGISTER FOR THE 2023 LUNCH AND LEARN EVENT

----- [CLICK HERE](#) -----

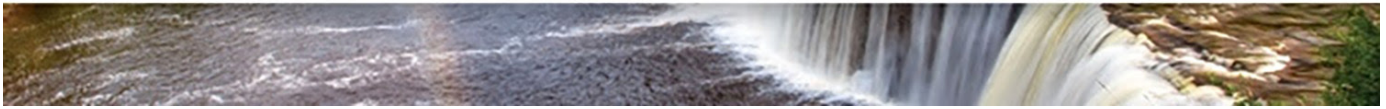
For more information regarding the 2023 Lunch and Learn event contact:

Lois Wolfson at wolfson1@msu.edu.

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MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 12, 2023

EGLE Media Office, EGLE-Assist@Michigan.gov, 517-284-9278

EGLE establishes new surface water values for two additional PFAS chemicals

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) today announced that it has established new water quality values (WQVs) for the PFAS compounds Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid (PFHxS) and Perfluorononanoic Acid (PFNA). PFHxS and PFNA are members of the larger group of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

The new WQVs are the latest to be added to the state's existing list of three PFAS compounds for which values have been established, bringing the total to five. WQVs are designed to protect the designated uses of Michigan's surface waters, including protections for aquatic life and public health.

The agency's Water Resources Division (WRD) determined that sufficient data was available to generate human health WQVs for both PFHxS and PFNA. Following the risk assessment method provided in Rule 323.1057 (Rule 57), a PFHxS concentration of 210 parts per trillion (ppt; or nanograms per liter) and PFNA concentration of 30 ppt was set for surface water. Concentrations of 59 ppt for PFHxS and 19 ppt for PFNA were established for surface water specifically protected as a drinking water source.

Aquatic life values for PFHxS and PFNA are currently under development. For PFAS, human health WQVs are significantly lower when compared to aquatic life values and provide a more conservative endpoint with the overall goal of protecting public health. Therefore, the decision was made to move forward with publication of the human health WQVs for PFHxS and PFNA while the aquatic life values are still being prepared.

The Rule 57 Water Quality Values for Select PFAS (listed in nanograms per liter which is equivalent to parts per trillion) are as follows:

PFAS	HNV* (drinking) (ng/L)	HNV* (nondrinking) (ng/L)	FCV* (ng/L)	AMV* (ng/L)	FAV* (ng/L)
PFOS	11	12	140,000	780,000	1,600,000
PFOA	66	170	880,000	7,700,000	15,000,000
PFBS	8,300	670,000	24,000,000	120,000,000	240,000,000
PFHxS**	59	210	-	-	-
PFNA**	19	30	-	-	-
<p>*Human Noncancer Value (HNV), Final Chronic Value (FCV), Aquatic Maximum Value (AMV), Final Acute Value (FAV)</p> <p>** New Water Quality Values</p> <p>(-) Aquatic Life Values for PFHxS and PFNA are currently under development</p>					

Water quality values define the maximum concentration of a chemical that can be in Michigan's surface waters (lakes, rivers, streams, etc.) without adversely impacting aquatic life, recreational activities, fish consumption, and other beneficial uses. They are also used to help determine limits for discharging pollutants from water treatment plants, industrial and commercial facilities, and other regulated entities.

The human health WQVs are not the same as the PFAS Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) which apply to drinking water systems. The Michigan PFAS MCLs are intended to apply to public water systems, protect people from excessive exposure to PFAS substances from the ingestion of finished drinking water, and were derived using methodologies equivalent to the Safe Drinking Water Act.

EGLE will continue to monitor ongoing actions taken by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other state agencies related to PFAS. As the science and understanding of

PFAS continues to evolve, WRD may issue further updates to Rule 57 PFAS to be protective of both human and environmental health.

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Efforts to Eliminate Local Authority to Approve or Regulate Aggregate Mining Persist in the Michigan State Legislature

Readers of this newsletter need to know that lobbyists for Michigan's powerful construction labor unions, the trucking industry, and the aggregate mining industry have not given up on their attempt to eliminate the capacity of local governments to regulate gravel and sand mining within their jurisdictions. Michigan House Bills [4526](#), [4527](#), and [4528](#) were written in order to usurp local authority and allow a sand and gravel mine, crushing facility, or storage facility to operate anywhere in a community, and therefore completely undermine the ability of local officials to balance the needs of the community, and/or act to protect ecologically sensitive lakes, streams, and wetlands existing within their jurisdiction.

The far-reaching legislation erodes the basic precepts of our democracy and jeopardizes the many long standing relationships that currently exist between aggregate mine operators and local government officials, and essentially shifts all new and expanding operations to state oversight under the jurisdiction of a yet to be

created permitting and regulatory apparatus within the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).

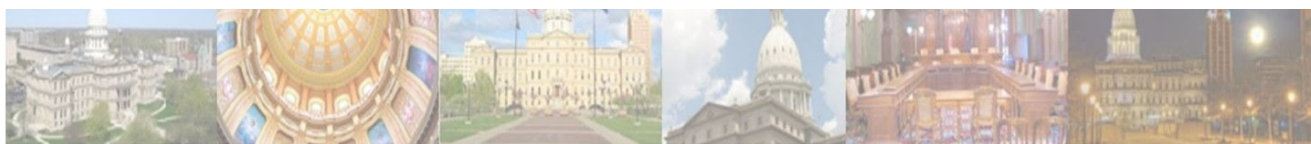
If you disagree that robbing local units of government of the capacity to regulate aggregate mines is a bad idea, please contact your Michigan Senator or Representative to express your opposition to the bills. The links that allow you to find out who your Senators and Representatives are and how to contact them appear below.



— WELCOME TO THE MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES —

To find your Michigan state representative and how to contact them

[click here](#)



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Welcome to the Michigan Senate

The legislative power of the State of Michigan is vested in a bicameral (2-chamber) body comprised of a Senate and a House of Representatives. Legislative districts are drawn on the basis of population figures obtained through the federal decennial census.

To find your Michigan state senator and how to contact them
[click here](#)

DANA NESSEL



MICHIGAN ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 6, 2023

Media Contact:

[Danny Wimmer](#)

**Federal Court Holds Former Owners Responsible
for Edenville Dam Failure; Finds They Hid Warning**

Signs from Michigan State Regulators

LANSING – Today, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan granted [the May 25, 2023 motion for summary judgment](#) the Department of Attorney General filed on behalf of the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The motion was part of the State’s ongoing enforcement action against the former owners of the Edenville Dam. The east embankment of the dam failed on May 19, 2020, sending a surge of water downstream that resulted in catastrophe for the surrounding communities.

Through the discovery process, the State uncovered key facts previously unknown to the public. In 2010, Boyce Hydro determined that the east embankment of its dam might fail if Wixom Lake rose too high. Boyce Hydro could have fixed the defect, and even made preliminary plans to do so, but neglected to ever follow through. It was that precise part of the embankment that failed in May 2020, just as Boyce Hydro had predicted internally back in 2010. Boyce Hydro never divulged that defect to the State, even though it was required by law to do so. Additionally, Boyce Hydro’s former dam safety engineer and chief operator resigned in protest in May 2017 because Lee Mueller—the person managing Boyce Hydro from his home in Las Vegas—routinely neglected basic dam safety priorities.

The Court noted that the former dam owners did not dispute any of the State’s evidence. For example, the Court held that “Plaintiffs brought sufficient evidence to show that Defendants knew of its dam’s vulnerability and that Defendants did not make EGLE aware of that vulnerability. Defendants do not dispute either assertion.” The Court also noted that Boyce Hydro “never implemented” a planned “cutoff wall” that “would have been more likely than not to have prevented the failure.”

“It was vital the Court was alerted to these new revelations, and we’re appreciative of the summary judgement granted,” said Nessel. “The State demonstrated dam ownership disregarded threats to the safety and integrity of the dam, and absolutely was responsible for its failure, so much so they had no defense whatsoever.”

Now that the Court has granted the State’s motion against the previous owners, the State plans to seek a money judgment against Mr. Mueller personally.

[A link to the motion filed in May can be found here.](#)

[A link to today’s order granting summary judgment can be found here.](#)

DIVE INTO LAKE LEARNING

INTRODUCTION TO LAKES ONLINE

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY | Extension



MSU Extension's popular Introduction to Lakes Online course is back this January

From lakefront property owners to local government officials, this course has something for everyone. Over 1,800 people have participated in the class since it was first offered in 2015 and we'd love to see this number grow.

Course topics include lake ecology, watershed management, shoreline protection, aquatic plants, Michigan water law, and community engagement. Each topic is explored via video lectures, interactive activities, discussion forums, and additional learning resources. We also host 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.

This year the course will kickoff on January 30, 2024. Registration is open until January 28. The cost is \$115 per person. Register by January 12 for an early bird price of \$95 per person. Scholarships are available.

A course schedule and registration details are available on the Introduction to Lakes website at www.canr.msu.edu/lakesonline.

Course website



Photo by Scott Brown



NALMS 2023 Registrations are Open!

The North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) and [Pennsylvania Lake Management Society \(PALMS\)](#) invites you to attend our 43rd International Symposium, to be held October 22–26, 2023 in Erie, Pennsylvania. We are excited to share that both attendee and exhibitor registrations are now open, as well as registrations for workshops and field trips!

At a time when climate change, invasive species risks, and cultural pressures threaten the natural environment and biodiversity of our fragile ecosystem, the opportunity to highlight and mesh the State of Pennsylvania and its rich diversity of aquatic habitats is long overdue.

NALMS' Symposium typically attracts an international collection of 500–600 lake management professionals, academia, and citizen attendees. The Symposium promotes the exchange of lake and reservoir management science, produces material for NALMS' high-quality publications, provides a rare opportunity for networking, as well as an opportunity to recognize excellence in the field of lake and reservoir management.

[Register as an Attendee](#)

[Register as an Exhibitor](#)

Become as Conference Sponsor



Photo by Scott Brown

If not **you**, then **who?**

We need **you!**

Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) is the only all-volunteer non-profit organization in Michigan that is dedicated to reaching out on a daily, pro-active

basis to our state representatives and senators in regards to their on-going need to act now to protect our precious inland lakes, wetlands, rivers, and streams.

Please do not expect other lake associations, other individuals, and other corporations to fund MWA's efforts in Lansing.

If **you** want your voice to be heard in Lansing **you** need to be the other lake association, the other individual, and the other **corporation** to make a generous contribution to helping fund our on-going efforts in Lansing.

Please don't count on others to support the only organization in Michigan that is completely dedicated to voicing your legitimate concerns to our state legislators in Lansing.

We hire professional lobbyists - **Karoub Associates** - who understand the intricacies of dealing with state government - to reach out to our legislators. As you might imagine, the cost of hiring a professional, highly respected Lansing-based lobbying firm whose downtown Lansing office's are located within a literal stone's throw of Michigan's state capitol building is expensive - we believe, however, that to have someone in constant contact with our state senators and representatives it is more than worth the significant on-going expense.

To put it in blunt "no ifs, ands, or buts" terms, without **your** generous support we will be unable to continue our erstwhile efforts in Lansing.

Please also remember that with the exception of a few relatively minor expenses related to keeping our website updated, and on-line, and a few relatively minor costs associated with distributing our e-newsletter, **all** of our membership and donation derived income goes to paying our downtown Lansing-based lobbying

firm, and our attorneys. No exorbitant employee salaries or fringe benefit packages to pay!!!!!!!!!!

It is also important to note that last year **Michigan Waterfront Alliance** lawyers took a case all the way to the Michigan Supreme Court in order to get the State of Michigan to do it's job in protecting our lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands.

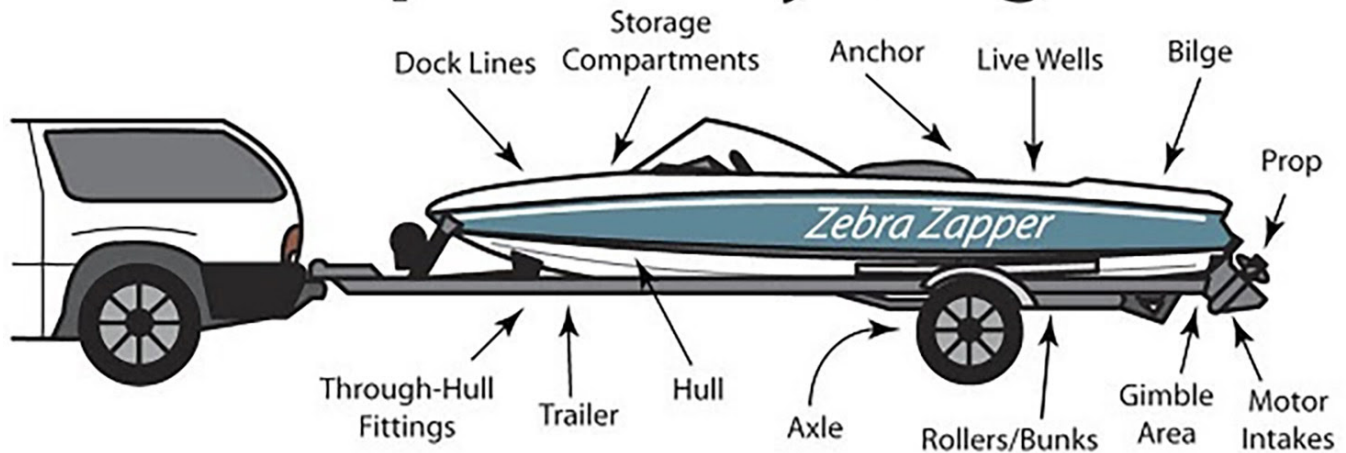
Thank you for reading and considering this hopefully convincing appeal for donations - **no amount is considered too small** - all donations of money are happily received and acknowledged within the context of the generous spirit that prompted them!!!!!!!!!!

[Click here](#) to become a dues paying member of MWA

[Click here](#) to make a generous donation to MWA



Before leaving and before launching...
inspect everything!



NotMISpecies Webinar Series

Invasive species pose a threat to Michigan's environment, economy, and sometimes even human health. What is at stake? What is being done? [This webinar series](#) explores how agencies, universities, and locally led organizations are working together to protect Michigan's natural resources through the Michigan Invasive Species Program. If you are concerned about the impacts of invasive species or interested in the techniques used to control them, join us as we examine species-specific actions,

innovations in research and technology, and programs designed to help communities prevent and manage harmful invasive species. A question-and-answer period will follow each presentation. Recorded versions of all previous [NotMISpecies webinars](#) are available at Michigan.gov/EGLE/Outreach under “Featured Webinar Series.”

Tuesday, November 7, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

[Must You Find Another Shrubbery? Understanding the Impacts of Invasive Box Tree Moth in Michigan](#)

Box tree moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*) was first detected in Michigan in fall 2022. This invasive pest, native to East Asia, poses a major threat to the boxwood plant, an ornamental shrub that is a valuable part of the U.S. (and Michigan) nursery and horticultural industry. Join Susie Iott, MDARD invasive species program specialist, to learn more about identification, impacts and the state’s response to limit the spread of this invasive pest.



Join McNALMS

If you share an interest in protecting and restoring Michigan lakes, we invite you to join the Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society (McNALMS) and add your voice to our growing and active effort. With

membership, you receive our informative newsletter; access to our parent organization's newsletter (national NALMS); reduced registration to our biennial Lunch and Learn meeting; eligibility to apply to our Student Grants and other financial assistance programs; information on other grants, courses, fact sheets, and announcements; and becoming a part of a network of individuals and corporations interested in lake conservation.

[Click here](#) to join McNALMS

[Click here](#) to download and read the Spring 2023 McNALMS Newsletter



Events Listing

All times Eastern. "\$" indicates there may be a cost to participate.

NEW October 18, 3:30 PM: Addressing violations of Michigan's wetlands, lakes, and streams laws. Presented by Helana Nelson, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. [Register](#).

NEW October 24, 1:00 PM: Michigan Coastal Management Program, 2025 Grant Funding Opportunity. Host: Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. [More details](#).

NEW November 4, 9:00 AM: Understanding the changing state of our lakes. Host: Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations. [More details](#). \$

December 5, 7:00 PM: Otterly amazing: Dive into the fascinating world of otters and our lakes. Presented by Susie Spikol, Harris Center for Conservation Education. Host: NH Lakes. [More details.](#)



>>> We Need Your Help!!! <<<

**Why You Should Join
Michigan Waterfront Alliance today?**

Do you care about your favorite lake, river, or stream?

Do you care enough to contact your state senator or representative about issues that may affect the quality of your waterbody?

Do you keep track of the bills that are important to your lake, river, or stream that may have been introduced in the Michigan House or Senate?

The good news is that Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) is doing this for you.

And while we're at it - we will remind you that the activities and efforts of the Michigan Waterfront Alliance are conducted entirely by passionate volunteers who donate their own time and personal resources to helping preserve and protect Michigan's extraordinary freshwater lakes, ponds, rivers, stream and wetlands.

Did you know that not a single person who works directly on behalf of our non-profit organization receives compensation of any sort - financial or otherwise?

Did you know that with the exception of paying our attorneys to represent your interests, and the best interests of preserving our freshwater resources in court, that the majority of the relatively modest amount of revenue we generate from memberships is entirely dedicated to paying our Lansing-based lobbyist to work on your behalf and on behalf of protecting Michigan's water resources in our state capitol??

Did you know that Michigan Waterfront Alliance is a pro-active member of the collaborative lake conservation

focused organization known as the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership???

Did you know that Michigan Waterfront Alliance was a 'platinum' level sponsor of the 2022 Michigan Inland Lakes Convention??

Did you know that Michigan Waterfront Alliance is a founding member of the Michigan Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force, a collaborative effort that is comprised of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and several statewide non-profit organizations that is dedicated to stopping the introduction and spread of exotic aquatic invasive plants and animals??

Did you know that our volunteers often reach out to elected members of the United States House of Representatives, the United States Senate, and to the United States Environmental Protection Agency in regards to resolving federal government level issues that pertain to protecting Michigan's freshwater resources??

Why not become a pro-active part of our efforts to help preserve and protect Michigan's incredible freshwater resources for future generations by becoming a member today??

Please remember that we rely entirely upon 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!!!



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



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](#)
