
Michigan Waterfront Alliance Update for Friday, December 1, 2023

1 message



Photo by Scott Brown

**Welcome to the Michigan Waterfront Alliance
Update for Friday, December 1, 2023**

**[Click here](#) to download a copy of the Wednesday,
November 1, 2023**

Michigan Waterfront Alliance e-Newsletter



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.



**U. S. District Court Judge Rules in Favor of the
State of Michigan in Edenville Dam Failure Related
Damage to Fisheries and Mussel Habitat Case**

by Scott Brown

MWA Newsletter Editor

United States District Court Judge Paul Maloney ruled on Monday, November 27 that the earthen embankment spanning both the Tittabawassee and Tobacco Rivers located in Midland and Gladwin counties otherwise known as the Edenville Dam collapsed on Monday, May 19, 2020 in response to heavy rainfall as a direct result of poor maintenance and lack of need repairs. The decision rendered by Judge Maloney affirms that the

Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy are entitled to \$119.8 million in damages from the owners of the dam in compensation for damage to fisheries and mussel habitat.

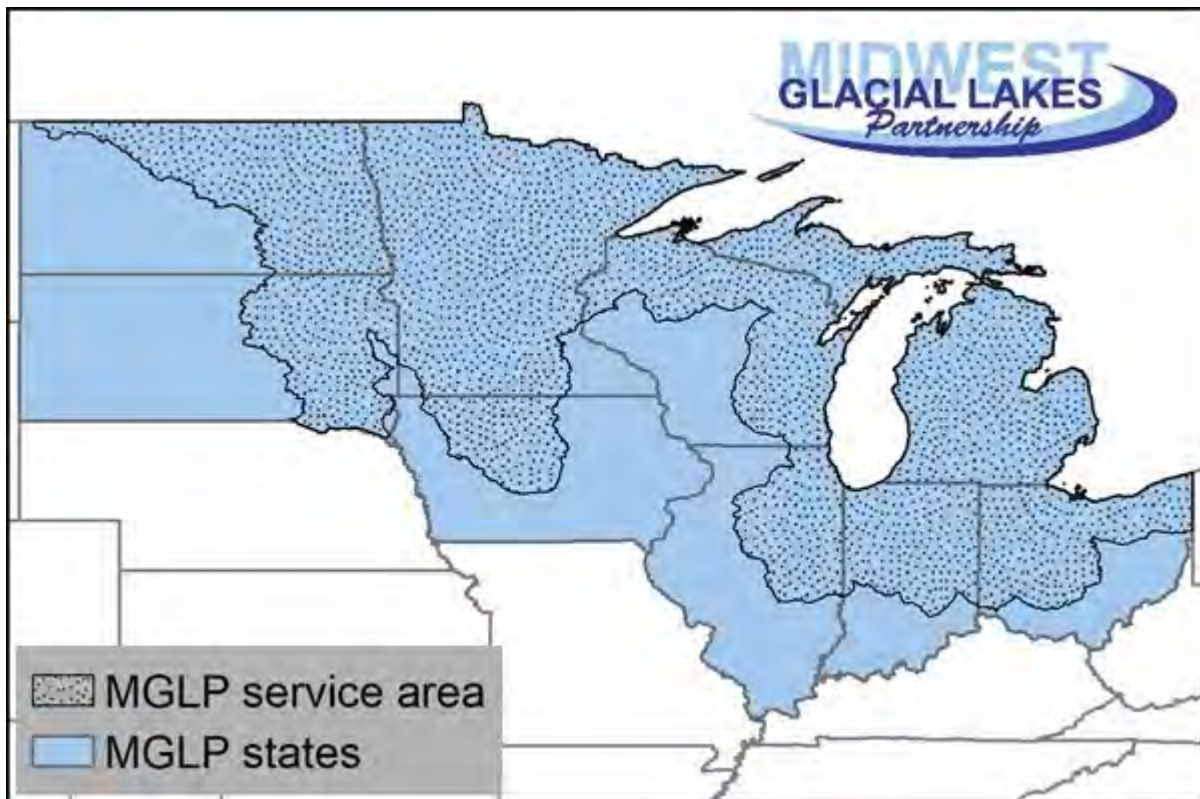
Widespread flooding caused by the catastrophic failure of the Edenville Dam is now known to have caused more than \$200 million in property damage and forced the emergency evacuation of more than 10,000 people at the time.

It is also important to note that both Wixom Lake, the 2,600-acre reservoir lake created by the Edenville Dam, and 1,250-acre Sanford Lake, the reservoir lake formed by Sanford Dam that also failed after being overwhelmed by the massive wall of water that flowed violently downstream when the Edenville Dam failed, ceased to exist as manmade lakes due to the loss of their impounded waters.



Request for proposals: 2025 Lake Conservation Grant

We are seeking project proposals for funding from the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership (MGLP) [2025 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 (see figure). Nine Midwestern states, numerous federal agencies, tribal governments, and private natural resource entities have been integral partners in the development and operation of the MGLP.



We support conservation projects that work toward meeting the goals and objectives set forth in the MGLP Strategic Plan (midwestglaciallakes.org/resources). Projects should benefit glacial lake fish habitats, which include 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 \$300,000 expected for distribution. Previous projects have been successfully implemented because the contributions and capabilities of many partners have enabled accomplishment of project goals that none of the partnering entities could complete on their own.



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).

Projects considered for funding must align with the goals and objectives of the MGLP and can range in scale from single-site projects to multiple sites to entire glacial lake 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. You can learn more and download application materials at the [Lake Conservation Grant](#) page of the MGLP website. You can submit your application by emailing it to MGLP Coordinator Joe Nohner at nohnerj@michigan.gov. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Nohner at nohnerj@michigan.gov or 517-599-6825.

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





Photo by NASA



Michigan Environmental Council—a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization—is a coalition of nearly 100 organizations created in 1980.

Our mission is to champion lasting protections for Michigan's air, water, and the places we love.

In our vision, Michigan is a national environmental policy leader where a powerful network of advocates has built a track record of enacting enduring and equitable policies that protect the health of our communities and offer unparalleled stewardship of our land, air, and water in the face of climate change.

<https://www.environmentalcouncil.org/>



Great Lakes

VIRTUAL

PFAS SUMMIT

Register today!

**2023 Virtual Great Lakes PFAS Summit
December 5-7, 2023**

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) is hosting the [fourth annual virtual Great Lakes PFAS Summit](#) on December 5-7, 2023.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) continue to present some of the biggest challenges in chemical contamination across the world. States throughout the nation, including the Great Lakes region, are finding PFAS contamination in a growing number of locations where these persistent chemicals pose a threat to human health and the environment. The Great Lakes PFAS Summit will bring together environmental program managers, policy experts, researchers, and contractors from around the Great Lakes region to share new methods of addressing this contamination and present innovative technical solutions developed to address these “forever” chemicals.

Participants will include local, state, and federal government officials; environmental consultants and vendors; academic researchers and students; industry managing PFAS contamination; and community organizations. The Summit will be held virtually through a combination of Zoom and the event app, *Whova*. All registrants will have the ability to network, chat with peers, [visit with exhibitors](#), and contact speakers.

[⇒ VIEW THE AGENDA](#)

Register today!

- Get information on the most current and reliable science and policy.
- Network with hundreds of professionals from around the Great Lakes Region using our online event platform, Whova.
- Explore current and future research topics related to PFAS.
- Hear the latest from federal, state, and local officials on their challenges and innovative solutions in dealing with these "forever chemicals."
- Earn Continuing Education Hours (CEH) / Professional Development Hours (PDH). (The Summit does not provide water operator CECs.)

All of this for only \$35!

>>>Registration Deadline: Friday, December 1, 2023<<<

[Michigan.gov/EGLEevents](https://michigan.gov/EGLEevents)

#GLPFASSummit

PROGRAM QUESTIONS:

Nicole Sanabria: SanabriaN@Michigan.gov

REGISTRATION QUESTIONS:

Alana Berthold: BertholdA@Michigan.gov

Joel Roseberry: RoseberryJ@Michigan.gov

Exhibitor opportunities available!

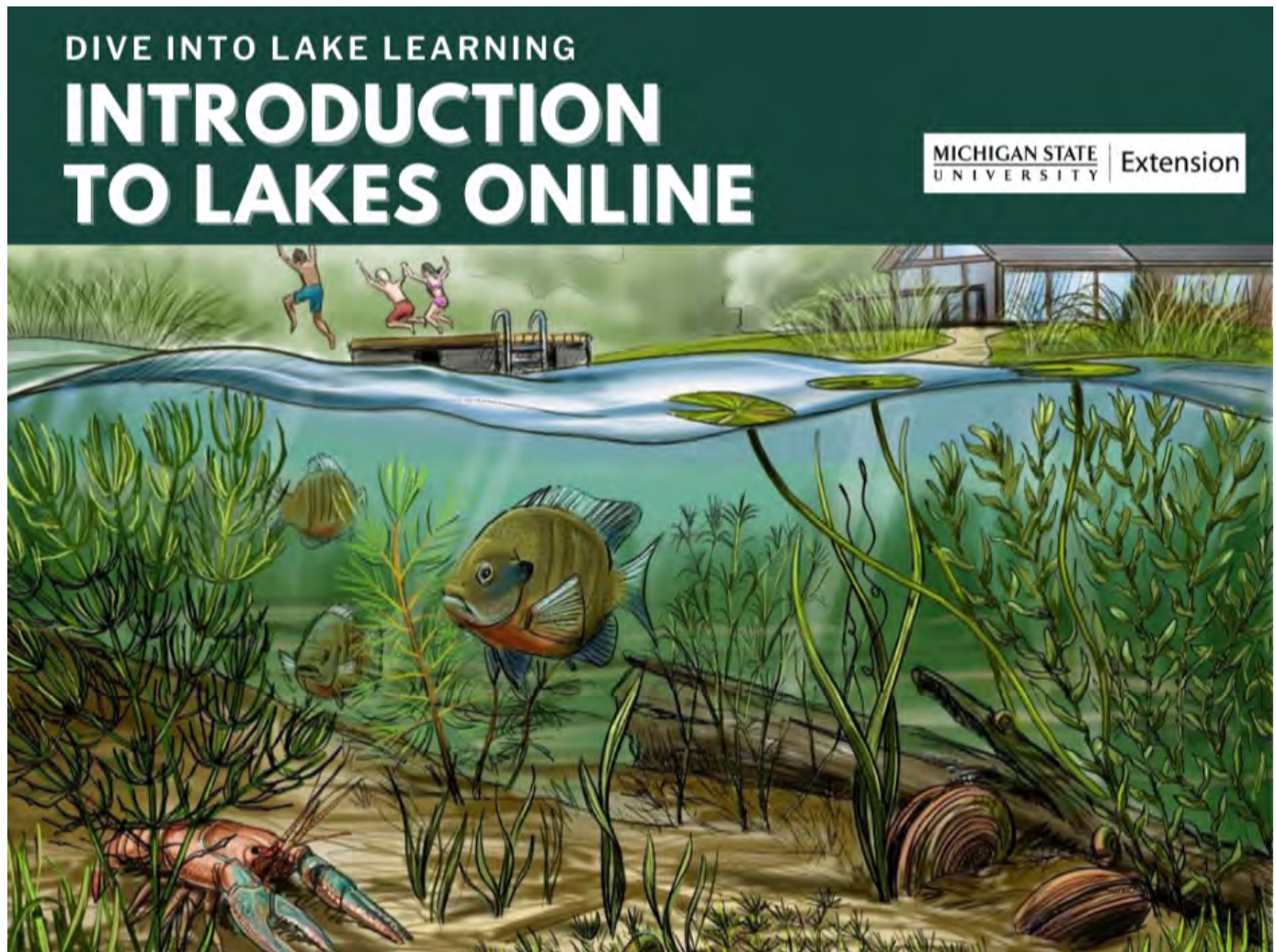
The Virtual Summit gives exhibitors unique opportunities to gain visibility and connect with the Great Lakes scientific community charged with solving complex environmental issues. Exhibitors will be available online to share their innovative products, services, and solutions. Exhibitor registration fee is \$95 and includes event attendance for one exhibiting staff.

[⇒ Exhibitor Information and Registration](#)

Individuals needing language assistance or accommodations for effective participation at this event should contact Joel Roseberry at 517-599-9494 by November 21 to request language, mobility, visual, hearing, translation, and/or other assistance.

EGLE does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, disability, political beliefs, height, weight, genetic information, or sexual

orientation in the administration of any of its programs or activities, and prohibits intimidation and retaliation, as required by applicable laws and regulations.



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, 2024 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

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!!!!!!!!!!

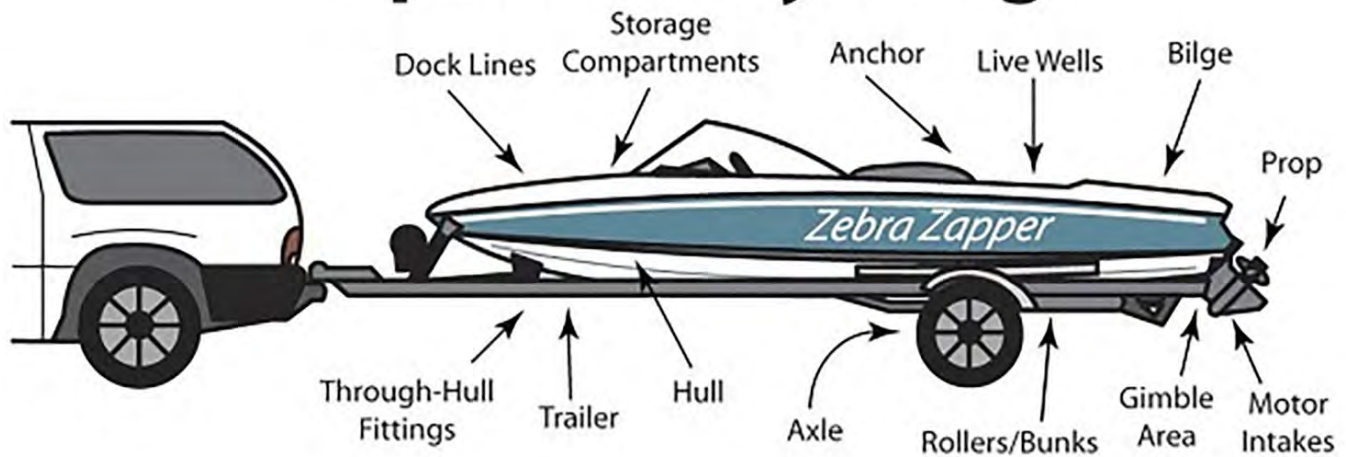
Click here to become a dues paying member of MWA

Click here to make a generous donation to MWA



Michigan Invasive Species Program

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."



Michigan Chapter North American Lake Management Society

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

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.

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.

December 5-7: 2023 Virtual Great Lakes PFAS Summit. Host: Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. \$ (fee waived for government, non-profits, and students; scholarships also available)

December 6, 2:00 PM: The memory of the mud: Paleolimnology reveals the impact of climate change on modern cyanobacterial bloom occurrence. Presented by Liz Favot, Laurentian University. Host: Watersheds Canada.

December 6: 2023 Michigan Vernal Pools Partnership Annual Meeting. Host: Michigan Vernal Pools Partnership.

December 13, 1:00 PM: Unique pathways of invasive mussel spread. Presented by James Dickey, Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries; Courtney Larson, US EPA; and Daniel Sandborn, University of Minnesota Duluth. Host: Invasive Mussel Collaborative/Great Lakes Commission.

January - March 2024: Introduction to Lakes online (6-week online course) Host: Michigan State University Extension. \$

January 4-5, 2024: 4th Annual Harmful Algal Bloom Virtual Research Symposium. Host: Algal Bloom Action Team of the North Central Region Water Network.

NEW January 25, 2:00 PM: Charting the course for a comprehensive point-intercept database (aquatic plant survey data management). Presented by Alex Bajcz, Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center. Host: AIS Detectors, University of Minnesota.

February 7, 9:00 AM: What's the damage? Ecology and effects of invasive European frog-bit in the St. Marys River. Presented by Kevin Kapuscinski, Lake Superior State University. Host: Michigan Invasive Species Program.



>>> 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
