

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council welcomes new director

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After four decades under Gail Gruenwald's leadership, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council will welcome its new executive director on March 1.

Katie Wolf is a long-time advocate for the Great Lakes. With a background in environmental science, as well as communication, she has taken on many different roles in her 30-plus-year career. At the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Alpena, she has served as media and community spokesperson, as well as point person for public engagement, education and



Wolf

development in the five years she has worked there.

"I think Tip of the Mitt has an incredible reputation, they're doing good work," Wolf said. "They've got a really great

staff and board and a strong membership. And I'm very committed to protecting the Great Lakes and our water resources. I've spent much of my life working on that effort and I thought this would give me an opportunity to make a big difference."

Wolf has held several leadership roles throughout Michigan, including in Michigan State University's College of Communication Arts and Sciences. She

also served as director of the National Medal for Technology and Innovation program, a presidential honor bestowed upon the nation's top technology innovators. Before that, she served as the director of external relations for the Consortium for International Earth Science Information Network, a NASA-funded, research-based organization focused on the human dimensions of global change.

Wolf said she wants to start her time with Tip of the Mitt by familiarizing herself with the community.

"I think the first thing I want to do is really listen to people closely and get a good handle on the board's priorities and learn the work that the staff are doing," Wolf said. "That will be my first pri-

ority is just to get out around the community and work with the different associations and listen to what their concerns are."

Some issues Wolf wants to focus on as director is climate change impact on shoreline areas, microplastics and non-point source pollution.

"We are excited to welcome Katie to the organization," Watershed Council Acting Director Jennifer Buchanan said. "We believe she has the knowledge, experience, and passion that is essential to successfully lead the Watershed Council into its next chapter. Under her leadership, we will continue to build on the solid foundation we have established over our nearly 43 years."