

News-Review

ENVIRONMENT

What does it mean to protect Lake Charlevoix?

Staff reports

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What does a protected and preserved Lake Charlevoix look like? Three nonprofit partners are working with the 10 jurisdictions around Lake Charlevoix to find out.

The communities surrounding the lake have a long history of working together to actively protect water quality, including extensive collaboration around shoreline zoning standards in 2016, according to the Land Information Access Association (LIAA).

But officials said ever-changing conditions such as the recent record-high water levels, accelerating development pressures and even turnover of participants in local governments and commissions can put communities in a reactionary state instead of on a proactive path toward desired goals. The Lake Charlevoix Association, in collaboration with the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and the Land Information Access Association, are meeting with the local planning commissions around the lake to discuss challenges and opportunities related to water quality and shoreline protection.

Officials said the sessions are intended to build toward a common future vision for the lake, listen to the challenges that each jurisdiction faces in managing its shoreline, and highlight available tools and strategies that can support each jurisdiction in realizing its vision for a protected and preserved Lake Charlevoix.

Meetings are already scheduled with the planning commissions in the following Lake Charlevoix communities and the public is invited to attend:

South Arm Township, Tuesday, July 12, 7 p.m.

Boyne City, Monday, July 18, 5:30 p.m.

Charlevoix Township, Wednesday, July 20, 7 p.m.

Eveline Township, Wednesday, Aug. 3, 7 p.m.

City of Charlevoix, Monday, Aug. 8, 6 p.m.

City of East Jordan, Thursday, Aug. 11, 5:30 p.m.

Bay Township, Tuesday, Sept. 6, 7 p.m.

Evangeline Township, Tuesday, Sept. 20, 5:30 p.m.

Meetings with Marion Township and Hayes Township are still being scheduled.

Financial support for the project has been provided by the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, the Lake Charlevoix Association and Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council.

Project information will be shared online at www.lakecharlevoixprotection.org. Contact Matt Cowall, executive director for the Land Information Access Association, at mcowall@liaa.org or (231) 929-3696.