

Current Reflections

WINTER 2013



SUPERIOR TO SARNIA: The Line 5 Pipeline

Millions of miles of oil and gas transport pipelines crisscross Michigan and the rest of the United States. By their nature, these underground pipelines tend to go unnoticed until a leak or rupture occurs, or there is controversy over building or expanding a pipeline. Recently, Enbridge's Line 5 drew public attention when the company expanded the line's capacity by 10% earlier this year to meet rising demand. Line 5 starts in Superior, Wisconsin, crosses Michigan's Upper Peninsula, goes under the Straits of Mackinac and travels between Burt and Mullett Lakes on its way to Sarnia, Ontario. This line expansion raised concerns about the possible future transport of tar sands through the line and the increased risk of a disaster similar to Enbridge's Line 6B, which caused the 2nd largest inland oil spill in US history. Line 6B was carrying the thick oil produced from the tar sands of northern Alberta, Canada when in 2010, it burst near Marshall, Michigan spilling the heavy and sticky oil into the Kalamazoo River. That spill has cost Enbridge \$1 billion and the clean-up is not yet complete.

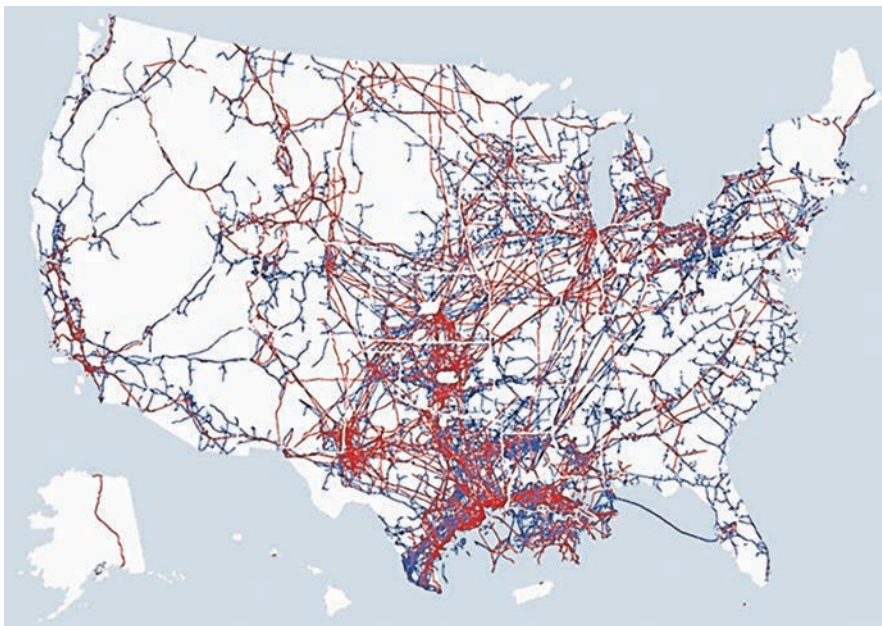
The Watershed Council met with Enbridge and government agency representatives, emergency preparedness agencies, and local lake association representatives. We presented the question to Enbridge

— how are you going to ensure all of us in Northern Michigan that what happened to the Kalamazoo River won't happen to Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Douglas, Burt, and Mullett Lakes and the rivers Line 5 crosses on its way to Sarnia?

Enbridge insisted that they have no intention of using Line 5 to transport the heavy oil produced from tar sands, though there are no long term assurances to that effect. Enbridge has improved its detection system as well as its integrity monitoring process since the spill in Marshall. However, the line which transports almost 541,000 barrels a day of light and medium crude or natural gas could still pose a risk if leaks and ruptures occur. The steps taken by Enbridge are reassuring; however, much more can be done to protect our precious waters from a spill.

The Watershed Council plans to assess risks to our waters by reviewing the exact path of the pipeline and comparing it to our map layers of the most sensitive areas in Northern Michigan. We will advocate for additional assurances from Enbridge, such as extra shut off valves near water features, more booms, and other emergency preparedness equipment. We will also review the government inspection process. Our concern is that we are relying on industry self-inspections because there are only 120 inspectors for all 50 states.

Major natural gas and oil pipelines in the U.S.



Hazardous liquid lines are shown in red. Gas transmission lines are shown in blue.

Photo: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

In addition, the Watershed Council will thoroughly research pipeline repair and replacement procedures. There have been calls for replacing the 60-year-old section of Line 5 that goes under the Straits. Is replacement appropriate? We will investigate this and many more questions and report to our members throughout the coming months. For more information contact our office and ask for Jennifer McKay or Grenetta Thomassey (231-347-1181). An additional resource is the website of the Pipeline Safety Trust at www.pstrust.org. Of particular note on this website are the pages "Pipeline Info for Beginners" and "State by State Pipeline Information."



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Gail Gruenwald
Executive Director

Reflections From Our Executive Director

The content of this issue of *Current Reflections* illustrates the expansive nature of the Watershed Council's programs. 2013 has once again been a year of extensive water quality monitoring and restoration projects and lengthy and complex policy initiatives. Both wings of our work serve a purpose to achieve our goal of protecting Northern Michigan's waters. It is also what makes us unique as an environmental organization.

Water surveys and monitoring provide a critical baseline of information necessary to address resource restoration, eradication of invasive plants, and long-term protection through voluntary and regulatory action. Our 34 years of water quality data on our lakes and streams proves that trends in water quality can be evident with careful data gathering. The Watershed Council has witnessed the increase in chlorides in our lakes over that time period and the impacts to our waters from the invasion of zebra and quagga mussels. This data prompts and guides our efforts to remediate the impacts of these changes.

The best public policies are built on a foundation of science. Our efforts over the decades to protect our region's extraordinary wetlands are supported by our work in the field assessing and reviewing wetland dredge and fill proposals along with many years of work in Lansing and Washington, DC. Recent policy changes in Lansing have ignored the science of wetlands and may result in the removal of Michigan's authority to administer the Clean Water Act. (See page 3.) We have been engaged in this policy debate for over 30 years and are committed to fighting to ensure that wetlands receive the protections they deserve.

Over the last three years, we have been seated at the table in the emerging policy debate over fracking in Michigan. We have seen slow progress on this issue and we expect it will need our attention for many years to come. And just in case our policy staff doesn't have enough to do, we have been asked to address the topic of oil and gas pipeline safety. This is in light of the growing awareness of the pipelines that traverse our Northern Michigan paradise (See cover article.) As always, we will bring our approach of reviewing the science and policy relevant to the topic and we will speak for the waters to ensure their long-term health and protection.

2014 Ice Breaker Series

January 9 INCOMING...New Invasive Species on the Horizon

January 23 Glacial Formation of Little Traverse Bay

February 6 Michigan's Pipelines

February 20 Who Are We? The Parks, Places and Potential of Pure Michigan

March 6 Bioengineering Techniques

March 20 Aldo Leopold and the Land Ethic

Join us for warm conversation on some hot topics this winter.

All sessions are held from noon - 1:00pm at Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council.

Limited to 20 people per session. Please call 231-347-1181 to RSVP.

Michigan's Wetland Program

Congress enacted the Clean Water Act (CWA) in 1972 with a goal to "restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters." Section 404 of the CWA is designed to prevent pollutants from contaminating U.S. waters, including wetlands.

In 1984, the State of Michigan was granted the authority to administer Section 404 of the CWA by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Unfortunately, protections under the state program have been continuously eroded by the State of Michigan. The state program was weakened so much over the years that it is now in violation of the Clean Water Act.

In 1997, the environmental community requested that the EPA require Michigan to become compliant with the Clean Water Act or otherwise, take back administration of the program. In 2008, EPA finalized a review of the state program and concluded that serious deficiencies requiring corrective action existed in Michigan's administration of the wetland program.

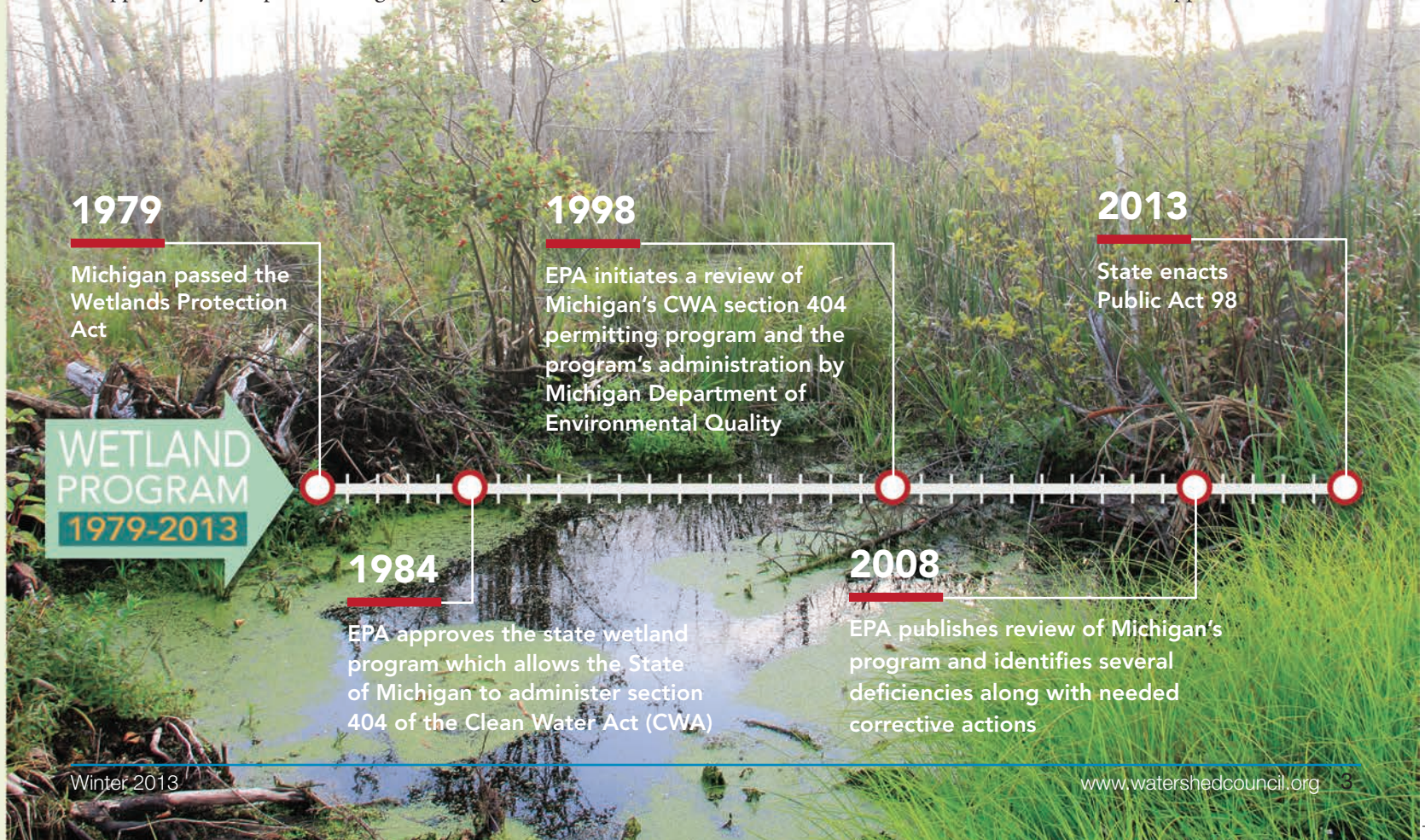
Over the last five years, the State of Michigan has failed to correct the problems identified by the EPA. This past summer, there was an opportunity to improve Michigan's wetland program and correct

the deficiencies. However, a measure passed by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor, Public Act (PA) 98, failed to comply with the Clean Water Act and further weakened protections of Michigan's water resources.

So what is the future of Michigan's wetland program?

Since PA 98 failed to fix all of the problems identified by the EPA, Michigan's wetland program remains in violation of federal law. Either the EPA will, yet again, give the state more time to fix the deficiencies or the EPA will withdraw approval of Michigan's administration of Section 404. There is much speculation on what action the EPA will take.

It is time for the State of Michigan and the EPA to stand up and correct this unlawful and critical situation. Section 404 was designed by Congress to protect wetlands and the navigable waters of the United States, but the State of Michigan, under EPA's oversight, has failed to properly administer the Clean Water Act for over 16 years. We need a program in Michigan that fully protects the integrity of our wetland ecosystems which are critical to the overall health of the Great Lakes. Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council will continue to work to make this happen.



Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council AQUAVIST

Aquavist ('ä-kw-vist) noun: A member of Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council's Local Activist Network; from Aqua - water, and Activist - one who seeks change through action.

UPDATE: WATERSHED PLAN WORK

ELK RIVER CHAIN OF LAKES

The Elk River Chain of Lakes Watershed Plan Implementation Team (ERCOL-WPIT) has been hard at work in Antrim County. In January, we held our Second Annual Local Government Event, which was well attended by public officials. Additionally, a Waterways Work Group was formed this year to install a pilot project of several log structures, known as Large Woody Debris, along the banks of the Grass River between Lake Bellaire and Clam Lake. This project was based on recommendations from river sedimentation studies carried out by the ERCOL-WPIT in prior years, and was the result of coordinated efforts of eight partner organizations and the Antrim County Operator of Dams.

LAKE CHARLEVOIX

The Lake Charlevoix Watershed Plan Advisory Committee has also been hard at work. In addition to achieving formal plan approval in 2012, the committee is now working on a brand new Michigan Department of Environmental Quality/United States Environmental Protection Agency grant to implement the plan. In September, we hosted a well-attended First Annual Local Government Event to highlight numerous recent successes. New projects include working with the City of Charlevoix, Boyne City, and East Jordan on stormwater issues, watershed septic system issues, and working with zoning administrators and planners on shoreline protection and enforcement, among others.

LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY

In coordination with the Little Traverse Bay Watershed Plan Committee, a team of University of Michigan Master's Project students finished a sub-watershed management plan for Tannery Creek in 2013. We also created a unique, updated brochure of the plan summary, highlighting the many accomplishments made in the first five years of implementation. We held a well-attended Second Annual Local Government Event in April, and kicked off a "Stormwater Matters" media campaign around the Watershed. Committee members also participated in four outstanding Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant projects, which will be wrapped up in coming months. Committee members are currently working to prioritize plan steps for the next five years, in order to identify and target funding opportunities.

CHEBOYGAN COUNTY

In 2013, work began to create a new watershed management plan for Duncan and Grass Bays, located on Lake Huron, east of the City of Cheboygan. They fall outside of the Cheboygan River Watershed, so there have been no prior watershed protection plan activities. The plan will also cover the eastern portion of the City. We are also very excited to begin working on a new watershed management plan for the Burt Lake Watershed, which includes the Maple, Sturgeon, and Crooked Rivers. Stay tuned – there will be lots more information on this work, funded by grants from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Watershed Council Awarded \$99,795 Grant to Enhance POD Program

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council received a grant in the amount of \$99,795.67 from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Community Pollution Prevention Grant program to expand Northern Michigan's Pharmaceutical and Over-the-counter Drug Drop-Off (POD) Program during 2014 and 2015.

The POD Program was initiated to address the growing concern of unused and expired pharmaceuticals polluting our waterways, poisoning our children, and putting our public safety at risk. The POD Program provides the opportunity for citizens to safely dispose of prescription, over-the-counter pharmaceuticals, and personal care products for free at community collection events and permanent collection drop boxes, located at law enforcement agencies. **To date, we have collected over 8,100 pounds of unwanted and unused medications.**

The grant will enhance the POD program by funding targeted education and outreach to key audiences and a focused media campaign. The purpose is to increase awareness, access, and use of the POD Program by Northern Michigan community members.

Through this project, we will be able to reduce the quantity of pharmaceuticals and personal care products entering Michigan's surface, ground, and drinking waters, as well as support law enforcement's efforts to keep these drugs out of the hands of people who will sell them, abuse them, and commit crimes while under their influence.

For more information about the Prescription and Over-the-counter Drug Drop-off Program or how to properly dispose of medications, visit www.watershedcouncil.org.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN STUDY ON FRACKING

In the fall of 2012, University of Michigan (U-M) researchers began a unique and detailed study of hydraulic fracturing, the controversial drilling process used to recover natural gas, also known as “fracking.” The study is focused on Michigan, and uses a two-year Integrated Assessment (IA) process, which systematically evaluates the potential environmental, social, and economic effects of fracking. The U-M Graham Sustainability Institute is overseeing the study, along with the University’s Erb Institute for Global Sustainable Enterprise, Energy Institute, and Risk Science Center.

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council was asked to help represent environmental interests by participating on the IA Steering Committee. Dr. Grenetta Thomassey has done so since the start of the process. The IA is expected to be finished in 2014, and will present decision-makers in the state with a menu of policy options to consider. The Watershed Council is very glad to be working with the University of Michigan and the Graham Institute to take a proactive, multidisciplinary look at the potential impacts and implications of this practice, and what to do about them, both now and in the long run.

As many of our members know, fracking involves injecting millions of gallons of water, along with added sand and chemicals, deep underground to break apart rock and free up the trapped natural gas. Even though the process has been used for decades, recent technical advances created access to huge quantities of previously

inaccessible natural gas, resulting in a fracking boom across the nation. As this natural gas boom unfolded, fracking became the subject of increased public scrutiny. Concerns include questions about potential chemical contamination of local water resources; water availability; wastewater disposal; and impacts on ecosystems, human health, and surrounding communities. Whether it will become a boom in Michigan has yet to be seen, but there is a definite presence in our state and industry is working hard to capture all the benefits they can identify here. That is why a Michigan-specific study is especially important.

During Phase I of the Integrated Assessment, U-M researchers explored seven critical areas related to hydraulic fracturing in Michigan: human health, the environment and ecology, economics, technology, public perception, law and policy, and geology/hydrodynamics. Technical reports were released for public comment earlier this year and work is moving forward on Phase II. The U-M research teams will outline a range of environmental, economic, social, and technological approaches to assist stakeholders in shaping hydraulic fracturing policies and practices in Michigan. The researchers will present their overall findings and policy recommendations in 2014.

For more information, contact Dr. Grenetta Thomassey, Program Director, at grenetta@watershedcouncil.org.

DE-ICERS: Your choice today, impacts waters tomorrow

The first flakes of snow have begun to fall in Northern Michigan and soon the phones at Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council will be ringing with inquiries about which de-icer is the best to use on our sidewalks and driveways. Unfortunately, the best de-icer with the least impact on our rivers, lakes, and streams is still the non-chemical back-breaking solution... the snow shovel. However, if you choose to use a de-icer, its proper use can reduce your impact on the environment and ease your battle with snow and ice.

The most commonly used de-icer is sodium chloride (rock salt). Although sodium chloride may be inexpensive, it comes with a high price tag for the environment. As part of our Comprehensive Water Quality Monitoring Program, we monitor chloride in lakes and rivers throughout the area. Almost all of the lakes monitored in our service area during the last 25 years have shown increased

chloride concentrations several times greater than naturally occurring levels. While concentrations of the monitored bodies of water are currently below the toxic threshold, increased concentrations can stress aquatic ecosystems particularly in smaller streams and lakes where concentrations can be higher.

De-icers have varying combinations of performance, cost and impacts, suggesting that some de-icers may be more appropriate for different climatic regimes. While there are potentially many more “environmentally-friendly” products available, experts recommend using calcium chloride and calcium magnesium acetate (CMA), which are more costly than sodium chloride but may be less environmentally harmful to sensitive ecosystems.

Always avoid over-application and strictly follow application guidelines whenever applying a de-icer. Where appropriate, apply sand or other abrasive along with a de-icing agent to help traction and reduce the amount of de-icer necessary. Additionally, keep de-icers, and other loose materials from inadvertently entering surface waters by using vegetation buffers. Also, clean up or redistribute piles of accumulated deicers, sand, and kitty litters.

Remember that anything that you put down on steps, sidewalks or driveways today impacts the health of our rivers, lakes and streams tomorrow.



Fingers in Everybody's Water

The Watershed Council has a decades-long history of monitoring water quality in Northern Michigan. Our staff and volunteers regularly check the pulse of dozens of lakes, rivers, and streams to ensure they remain intact and healthy. Monitoring is carried out every year through a variety of programs and projects, but 2013 has been exceptional in terms of the sheer volume of water quality data collected. Between our long-standing monitoring programs and specific projects funded by grants and lake associations, we have had our fingers in just about everybody's water this year.

From the get-go, 2013 has been a very active monitoring year. It marked our ninth cycle of Comprehensive Monitoring, a program started in 1987 on 10 lakes that has expanded to include 60 lakes and streams. We started later than typical due to the late ice-out date on most lakes, but then spent the better part of May rushing from one water body to the next to get all the monitoring done.

Prior to waters opening in the spring, our staff was busy on the monitoring front, writing Quality Assurance Protection Plans (QAPP) for two projects funded by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Following development and approval of QAPPs for the Lake Charlevoix Tributary Monitoring Study and the Duncan and Grass Bays Watershed Management Plan, we dove into another dozen water bodies to collect data. The Lake Charlevoix study includes Stover, Monroe, Brown, Birney, Deer, Porter, and Horton Creeks, as well as multiple locations on the Boyne and Jordan Rivers. The Duncan/Grass Plan includes comprehensive monitoring of the Bays, as well as Elliot Creek, Grass Bay Creek, and the Butler Road Ditch.

In addition to these large DEQ-funded projects, there are a variety of smaller monitoring initiatives funded by lake associations and local community foundations. The Elk-Skegemog Lakes Association

and Walloon Lake Association (WLA) continue to sponsor regular spring and summer monitoring on their lakes. WLA concurrently funded a comprehensive water quality assessment of two of the largest tributaries to Walloon: Fineout (aka South Arm) and Schoofs Creeks. Also, water quality data and additional information is being collected from Stover Creek in the Charlevoix area with funding from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation. Information collected will be used to develop a restoration plan for this degraded creek.

On top of all of that, we coordinate volunteer monitoring on approximately 40 lakes and streams. Volunteer Lake Monitors collect physical and chemical water quality data on a weekly basis throughout the summer, while Volunteer Stream Monitors devote four weekends per year to assess the biological health of our creeks and rivers.

Monitoring is essential for protecting our waters. The information collected from our programs and projects is used to detect and respond to water quality problems, as well as characterize the aquatic ecosystems being monitored. Without the support of our members and volunteers, the magnitude of monitoring that has occurred this year would not be possible. We extend our profound thanks to all of you.

Kevin Cronk, conducting comprehensive water quality sampling on Thumb Lake (Lake Louise) near Boyne Falls.



Dan Myers, sorting a tray of macroinvertebrates collected during the fall Volunteer Stream Monitoring.





Aquatic Plant Surveys

Based on what we've been hearing from our members and other Northern Michigan residents, plant growth seems to be accelerating in many of our lakes. "We've lived here 30 years and have never had weeds in front of our cottage," is a common complaint reaching our ears. However, this increase in plant growth is anecdotal for most lakes. We can't be sure of any increased growth or associated problems until we have the facts. This is why we need comprehensive aquatic plant surveys, which give us baseline data about the extent and density of plant growth throughout a lake. These surveys also allow for evaluating changes in plant growth in a lake over time, which provides a great tool for aquatic plant management, particularly for assessing effectiveness of invasive species control efforts.

To date, Watershed Council staffers have completed comprehensive plant surveys on Adams, Black, Crooked, Douglas, Long, Millecoquin, Mullett, Paradise, Pickerel, and Wycamp Lakes. This year we've been working on Bellaire, Clam, Long, and Walloon Lakes. Long Lake is of particular interest because it is the third such survey in eight years, providing detailed information on changes in the plant communities in response to Eurasian watermilfoil control efforts by the Cheboygan Long Lake Area Association. Most of these surveys have been sponsored by lake associations, though sometimes other support becomes available, such as the Dole Foundation that generously provided funding for the surveys on Clam and Bellaire.

Thanks to a grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Clean Water Fund, Hanley and Intermediate Lakes are in the queue for next year. Plant surveys on these two lakes are part of the larger Elk River Invasive Species Monitoring Project, which includes comprehensive surveys on Elk and Skegemog Lakes in 2015. In addition, all 14 lakes in the chain will be surveyed for the following species of concern: Eurasian watermilfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, purple loosestrife, *Phragmites*, and quagga mussels.

As nuisance aquatic plant growth increases, so does the need for aquatic plant surveys.

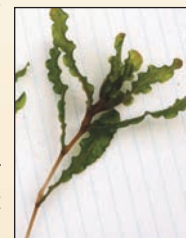
Once established in a lake, aquatic invasive plant species rapidly spread and dominate, outcompeting native plants and causing an assortment of problems. As the dense growth of an invasive species expands throughout a lake and reaches the surface, native plant communities suffer and recreational activities, such as boating, skiing, and fishing, are impeded.

Be on the look-out for...



Eurasian watermilfoil, *Myriophyllum spicatum*, has rapidly spread through Tip of the Mitt lakes in the last ten years. It has slender stems that can grow in excess of ten feet, with leaves arranged in whorls of four around the stem. Each leaf has 12-21 leaflets on each side of the mid-rib, distinguishing it from the native species (such as common and variable-leaf watermilfoils), which typically have less than 10 leaflets. Eurasian watermilfoil leaves also have a fishbone appearance compared to the native watermilfoils.

Curly-leaf pondweed, *Potamogeton crispus*, is still limited in its distribution throughout Northern Michigan waters, but is gradually gaining a foothold. There are dozens of pondweed species in Michigan, but curly-leaf is among the easiest to identify due to the wavy "curly" leaf margins. Another characteristic is the somewhat flattened stem.



European frogbit, *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*, has only recently been confirmed in Northern Michigan (Alpena area), but has yet to be found in our service area. This floating-leaf species rapidly produces thick, dense mats at the water's surface. Similar in appearance to our native pond lilies, it can be distinguished by its small size, with leaves growing to only 1-2" wide, as compared with our native pond lilies that have much larger leaves, sometimes reaching over a foot in length.



For more information on these and other aquatic invaders visit www.watershedcouncil.org/learn

The Road End Problem Solved...Almost

*Guest article by Clifford H. Bloom, Esq.
Bloom Sluggett Morgan, PC
Grand Rapids, Michigan*

Prior to 2012, no state statute regulated the usage of road ends (whether private or public) at lakes. Rather, the scope of usage rights for road ends was (and still is) governed by the Michigan common law; that is, by the sum of Michigan's Supreme Court and Court of Appeals written decisions over the years. A few Michigan municipalities (cities, villages, or townships) did and have regulated road ends by local ordinance, but those ordinances are still not common.

The Michigan appellate case law on road ends is consistent, decades old, and overwhelming. That case law states that road ends at private or public inland lakes cannot be used for private dockage, overnight or seasonal mooring, anchoring, docking or storing of boats, or for lounging, sunbathing, picnicking, or camping. Road ends are for ingress and egress to lakes (i.e., travel) only. Some of those Michigan appellate cases that make such limited road end rights clear include *Jacobs v Lyon Twp* (after remand), 199 Mich App 667 (1993), *Higgins Lake Property Owners Assn v Gerrish Twp*, 255 Mich App 83 (2003) and *Magician Lake Homeowners Assn, Inc v Keller Twp Bd of Trustees*, Michigan Court of Appeals decision issued July 31, 2008; 2008 WL 2938650 (Docket No. 278469). Many of those cases allow the governmental unit (not a private individual) to install one public dock on wider public road ends for "day use" only – boats can be temporarily docked or moored for use during the day but not permanently or overnight. A similar "day use only" dock is also generally allowed by the courts for wider private road ends.

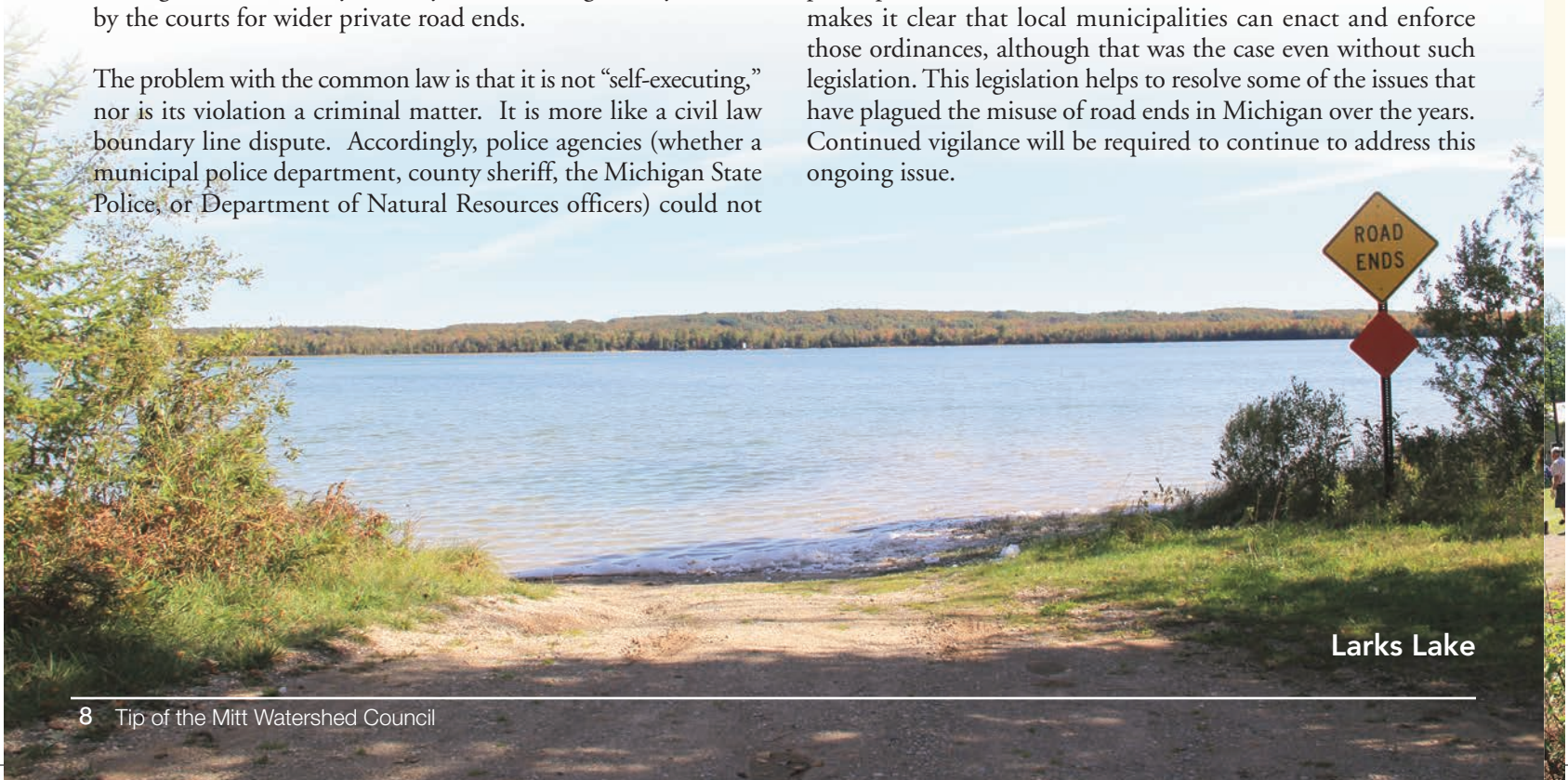
The problem with the common law is that it is not "self-executing," nor is its violation a criminal matter. It is more like a civil law boundary line dispute. Accordingly, police agencies (whether a municipal police department, county sheriff, the Michigan State Police, or Department of Natural Resources officers) could not

and cannot enforce the common law by prosecution. Rather, riparians had to maintain expensive and often extended private action lawsuits to stop the violations.

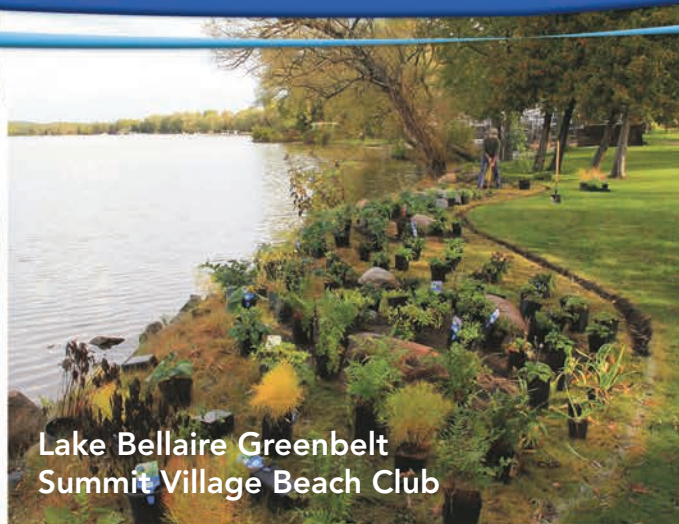
In 2012, a new state law became effective (MCL 324.30111b) that prohibits the installation, maintenance, or use of a private dock, as well as any overnight boat moorage, dockage, or storage at a public road end at an inland lake (as well as the shore and bottomlands thereof). Now, police officers can issue criminal misdemeanor tickets to enforce that statute. While the new legislation has helped considerably, continued public road end violations are still occurring.

If a lake association or area riparians are concerned that the statute is not being enforced at a particular public road end, there are generally two options available. First, the statute allows any individual to file a lawsuit to enforce the statute. Second, police or prosecuting authorities will sometimes bend to public pressure to enforce the law. The Michigan Lake & Stream Associations, Inc. has a "tool kit" that is available to its members to assist with writing the appropriate letters and notices to help prompt officials to enforce the statute. Please go to www.mylsa.org.

A particularly effective way of enforcing the common law regarding road ends is for the local municipality involved to enact its own police power road end ordinance. In fact, MCL 324.30111b(3) makes it clear that local municipalities can enact and enforce those ordinances, although that was the case even without such legislation. This legislation helps to resolve some of the issues that have plagued the misuse of road ends in Michigan over the years. Continued vigilance will be required to continue to address this ongoing issue.



Larks Lake



Lake Bellaire Greenbelt
Summit Village Beach Club



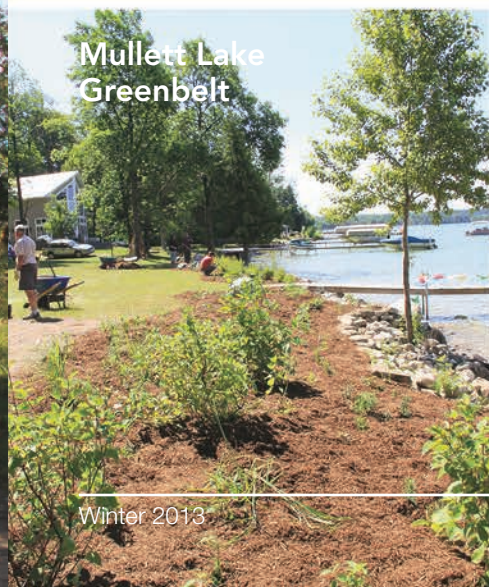
Greenbelt Workshops

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council hosted two successful greenbelt workshops for lakefront property owners this past summer. The first workshop was held July 13, in Aloha, MI, at a private residence on Mullett Lake, and in partnership with Mullett Lake Area Preservation Society (MAPS). Prior to the workshop, MAPS coordinated an application process for lakefront property owners with interest in receiving a greenbelt through the grant program. Approximately 14 applicants expressed interest. Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council evaluated each of the sites and chose the site in Aloha based on need, visibility, site conditions, and cost. The installed greenbelt included over 400 herbaceous and woody native plants including coneflowers, bunch grasses, butterfly weed, and dozens of other species. Clusters of accent boulders and a layer of mulch were also incorporated for a more finished-looking result.

The second workshop, coordinated with Three Lakes Association (TLA) on Lake Bellaire, was held October 5 at the Summit Village Beach Club. Coneflowers, sedges, ferns,

and ground covers were planted, along with several clusters of boulders.

Both workshops consisted of a short presentation on the importance of greenbelts, distribution of booklets created solely for the workshops, and completion of each greenbelt. Both greenbelts were partially installed in the days prior to the workshops. This allowed participants to see a partially finished product upon their arrival. After some "how to" instructions, the participants were digging, edging, mulching, and watering like professionals. After a couple of hours, both greenbelts were completed and already eliciting compliments by the attendees. Armed with their newfound enthusiasm, workshop attendees received native plant kits to take home and install in their growing greenbelts! North by Nature Ecological Landscaping assisted with the greenbelt installations at both project locations. The greenbelt workshops were made possible through a grant from the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership (www.midwestglaciallakes.org).



Mullett Lake
Greenbelt

Winter 2013



www.watershedcouncil.org

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council Little Traverse Bay Stormwater Management Initiative Update

Funded primarily through the: **Great Lakes RESTORATION**



Holms Road

Another road-stream crossing project was completed as part of the Little Traverse Bay Stormwater Management Initiative! The Holms Road crossing over Hay Marsh Creek, a tributary to the Bear River, has been upgraded with a new, 11 1/2' wide elliptical culvert. The previous culvert was undersized, too short, and showing signs of wear and tear. Erosion of the road bed was also contributing to excessive sedimentation of the stream. Thank you to our project partners, who include the Charlevoix County Road Commission, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Northwest Design Group, and Harbor Springs Excavating.



Completed
Fall
2013

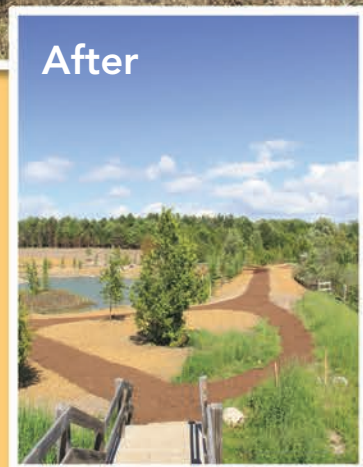
Completed
Summer
2013

North Central Michigan College Stormwater Wetland

Another exciting accomplishment as part of the Little Traverse Bay Stormwater Management Initiative is the completion of the stormwater wetland at North Central Michigan College. The contractors put the finishing touches on the college's new and improved stormwater wetland early this summer, including the planting of hundreds of Michigan native trees, shrubs, grasses, flowering perennials, and aquatic plants! In addition, a wood chip path allows visitors to walk the perimeter of the wetland. Many different types and species of birds have been spotted frequenting the wetland including belted kingfishers, great blue heron, cedar waxwings, sandpipers, mallards, and killdeer.



After





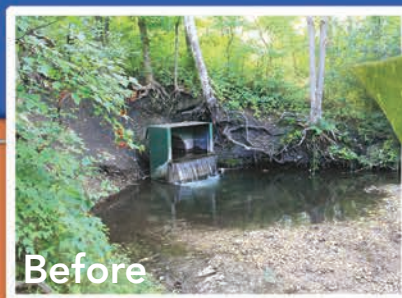
Before

The stormwater wetland receives runoff from the entire campus. Stormwater first empties into one of three sediment forebays where sediments are captured and contained. Stormwater then moves through a stone weir into the larger, open-water wetland. The depth of the wetland varies and reaches 12 feet at its deepest point. Two nesting islands provide refuge for birds, turtles, and amphibians. Plus, two dead trees, or snags, have been left standing to serve as perch poles for resident raptors and other birds. Several root wads, tree trunks with woody roots intact, can be seen at the water's edge and provide additional habitat. The painted turtles can oftentimes be seen sunning themselves on the exposed trunks. An overlook deck allows visitors a full view of the wetland and will serve as an access point for educational purposes. In addition to the Watershed Council, the project team includes North Central Michigan College Natural Areas Committee, Northwest Design Group, Super M Excavating, and Louis A. Hoffman Nursery.

To see the stormwater wetland in action, visit www.watershedcouncil.org and click the YouTube link at bottom of the page.



After - In Action



Before

Scheduled
Completion
November
2013

Lower Tannery Creek Restoration

If you have plans to use the Little Traverse Wheelway in the near future, take note of the work underway where Tannery Creek crosses under the trail. The project is another component of the Little Traverse Bay Stormwater Management Initiative and includes removal of the existing, undersized culvert and replacement with a timber bridge. In addition, the stream bed will be stabilized with riffle and pool structures constructed of cobble, which will serve as valuable fish habitat. A permanent sea lamprey barrier will also be installed on the stream bottom that will prevent lamprey from migrating upstream, while still allowing salmon and other spawners to pass.

The project has been years-in-the-making and made possible through additional support from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation. Project partners include Northwest Design Group, Team Elmer's, Top of Michigan Trails Council, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. In addition, the project partners appreciate the support of Mr. Robert Koffman, the adjoining land owner, for his cooperation and interest in the project.



Under Construction





**Volunteer Stream Monitors
Field Day**



**Volunteer Stream Monitors
Identification Day**

Summer/Fall 2013

Learning • Exploring • Monitoring



**Avian Botulism
Monitor Training**



Freshwater Mussel Workshop



**Wednesdays on the Water -
Paradise Lake Pontoon Tour**



**Paradise Lake Boat Washing
Station Greenbelt Installation**





Bear River Cleanup Crew

Trash to Treasure: Bear River Cleanup had something for everyone

This year's 9th Healing the Bear – Bear River Cleanup was held on August 24th and hosted in conjunction with the Northern Michigan River Sweep. The event attracted over 70 volunteers eager to collect trash of every imaginable kind from in and around the Bear River. It was a beautiful summer day for the community members, families, and business teams that came out to clean the river from its beginning at Walloon Lake all the way to Little Traverse Bay.

Cleaning a river this size is no small task. Some teams had to use canoes to reach remote areas and float the litter and scrap metal they found down the river to a safe unloading point. Volunteers using protective gloves and long handled tongs collected discarded cigarette butts, empty snack bags, styro-foam cups, plastic bottles, and candy wrappers. Two full

truck loads and one trailer load of trash and recyclable items were removed from the river.

However, not everything pulled from the river was trash. Those that scoured the bottom of the river found a treasure trove of items that could be repurposed. "One man's trash is another man's treasure," said one volunteer. Some of the more interesting items found this year were a large spool of barbed wire, a graveyard of hundreds of glass bottles, an antique glass battery, and a vintage Red Rock Cola sign.

A short video of the event and interviews with first time volunteers is on our website. Just click the YouTube button at the bottom of our home page at www.watershedcouncil.org. Many thanks to everyone who participated this year!

Many hands make light work.



Welcome New Members

7/12/13-10/3/13

Ms. Elsa-Britt Andersson
 Mr. and Mrs. G. Peter Blom
 Mr. and Mrs. Dave Bowman
 Mr. and Mrs. Dale Burmeister
 Mr. and Mrs. Christopher S. Conger
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Datlen
 Dr and Mrs. Michael Dibble
 Steve and Judy Dobson
 Mr. and Mrs. Ray A. Easton
 Mr. & Mrs. Jeffery C. Ehlers
 Mr. and Mrs. James Erhart
 Gerald A. Faulkner
 Ms. Deborah Fergus
 Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Fettig
 Geoffrey and Kathleen Fieger
 Mr. and Mrs. William Fleury
 Mrs. Susan Foltz
 Mr. Joseph T. Galanek
 Richard and Holly Gedert
 Drs. Andrea and Guy Golembrewski

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Haddad
 Mr. Christopher L. Hanley
 Ms. Jacqueline S. Harrison
 Mr. and Mrs. Glenn B. Hessler
 Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey B. Hill
 Mr. and Mrs. Bob Holmes
 Mr. Benton B. Holt, III
 Mr. Raymond O. Howd
 Thomas Jaenicke
 Dr. and Mrs. Michael W. Johnson
 Mrs. Sherrie Lamrouex-Clark
 Mr. and Mrs. John E. Lawrence
 Gudrun and Ilija Letica
 Mr. and Mrs. Alex J. Mason
 David and Cathy Meyer
 Mr. Ronald D. Miller
 Ms. Virginia F. Moore
 Mr. and Mrs. Timothy O'Donnell
 Mr. and Mrs. William R. Orlow
 Mr. and Mrs. Henry Peet

Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Raider
 Mrs. Doris Richard
 William Clutter and Linda Richter-Clutter
 Jana B. Robinson
 Mr. and Mrs. Henry F. Rohs
 Mr. and Mrs. David J. Ryan
 Susan E. Scarrow
 Mr. and Mrs. George W. Schoene
 Mr. and Mrs. Hans Schuler
 Mr. and Mrs. David P. Sims
 Susan Staffan
 Mr. Walter Stansbury
 Mr. & Mrs. R. Stanley Sutton
 Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Trudell
 Mr. and Mrs. Julian Van Winkle
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Whiteman
 Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Whiting
 Mr. Joseph S. Wildberg

Honorariums & Memorials

Memorials and Honorariums are a meaningful way to celebrate the memory of a loved one or pay tribute to someone who cares about the preservation of our beautiful water resources. For more information about these types of gifts, please contact Sandy at 231-347-1181.

IN HONOR OF

Debbie Nussbaum and Tom Semik
Andrea and Ronald Shafer

IN MEMORY OF

Bob Briedenstein
Mr. and Mrs. Michael P. Carey
 William Howenstein
Mrs. John B. Ford, III

Jan Kopka
Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Lent
 Valdis Spacs
East Burt Lake Association



Little Traverse Bay

THANK YOU

Volunteers & Contributors

These are people that are dedicated to protecting our water resources. Thank you for your time, effort, and support.

Chris Leifson Maintaining office landscape, assistance with field work, etc.

Sharon Brown, RSVP Volunteer assists with mailings and special projects

Duncan Bay Boat Club for allowing us access through their marina launch to monitor water quality in Duncan and Grass Bays as part of our watershed management plan project.

Tom and Marilyn Morrow for allowing us to use their boat for the Walloon Lake plant survey.

Bear Cove Marina for allowing us to dock at their facility during the Walloon Lake plant survey.

Ed Strzelinski for volunteering for our POD collection events.

Leslie Meyers for her assistance with the Lake Bellaire shoreline survey.

Whale of a Sale Drop-off Partners

Irish Boat Shop, Harbor Springs
Irish Boat Shop, Charlevoix
Burt Lake Marina, Indian River
Ryde Marina, Alanson
Duncan Bay Boat Club, Cheboygan

Healing the Bear Sponsors

Petoskey Plastics Grain Train
Oleson's Food Store City of Petoskey
Emmet County DPW Meijer

University of Michigan Biological Station for use of their facility for Mussel Workshop and housing one of our interns.

Dr. Renee Sherman Mulcrone and **Joe Rathbun** for teaching the Freshwater Mussel workshop.

Roast & Toast for providing coffee for our educational meetings and events.

North Central Michigan College and **Kathy Germain** for use of the science lab and equipment for our volunteer stream monitoring program.

Tax You Deserve a ✓ Break Today

Did you know it is possible to make a tax-free donation from your IRA to Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council? Depending on a few provisions, the IRA charitable rollover offers seniors an opportunity to give back to the causes they support in their communities, such as the Watershed Council, without suffering adverse tax consequences. The giving incentive is of particular value to individuals who do not claim itemized deductions on their tax return because the funds are sent directly to nonprofits from IRA accounts and are never counted as income.

What is an IRA charitable rollover?

The law uses the term "qualified charitable distribution" to describe an IRA charitable rollover. A qualified charitable distribution is money that individuals who are 70½ or older may direct from their traditional IRA to eligible charitable organizations. The provision has a cap of \$100,000 for charitable distributions from individual IRAs each year. Individuals may exclude the amount distributed directly to an eligible charity from their gross income.

This means that you can direct an amount to Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council with *no federal income tax liability*. This IRA Rollover may provide you with an excellent opportunity to make a gift during your lifetime from an asset that would be subject to multiple levels of taxation if it remained in your taxable estate.

There are some details and restrictions:

- You must be 70½ or older when you make your gift, and the gift must be made from an IRA – no other retirement plans (such as 401k, 403b or SEP accounts) qualify.
- Your gift must come to us outright – it cannot be used to establish a life-income arrangement or support a donor-advised fund.
- Although the distribution will be free from income tax, it will not generate an income tax charitable deduction.

The administrator of your IRA will make the actual distribution to us. We have a sample letter of instruction that you can send to your IRA administrator, if you need one.

What is the new expiration date of this provision?

It applies only to qualified charitable distributions made **before January 1, 2014**.

We thank you for your generosity, and for all you do for Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to us, or our partners at your local community foundation:

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council231-347-1181
Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation ...231-348-5820
Charlevoix County Community Foundation231-536-2440

The following information was provided by the Council on Foundations. Please note that neither Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council nor the Foundations provides legal or financial advice; please consult an appropriate professional for advice tailored to your situation.



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Help us protect what you love by spreading the word about our projects and volunteer opportunities. When you're done reading this issue, please pass it along to your friends and neighbors.

Join 9&10 News/Fox 32 and Higher Grounds to support Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council by making **Michigan This Morning** coffee your daily brew. A portion of sales from each bag will go directly to Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council to help protect what you love... WATER.

Available at **Spartan stores** across Michigan or online at www.highergroundstrading.com



During this time of year we give **THANKS** for many things...

Partnerships with local governments,
agencies and non-profits

Dedicated and Hardworking volunteers

Greenbelts that
protect our lakes

*The honor of protecting
Northern Michigan's waters*

**Generous members that put their
trust in us to protect our waters**