



Years



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

2014-2015 Board of Directors

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Over the past 35 years, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council has transformed from a small group of concerned citizens into a well-respected organization. Thanks in large part to the collective efforts of countless volunteers, environmentally-minded individuals, and the long-term dedication and financial support of our membership, the Watershed Council has been successful protecting our waters.

This report is interactive

Our 2014 Online Annual Report is interactive. When you see the following icons, click on them to read a report online, download it for future use, or to watch a video. We hope you enjoy this more detailed approach to sharing our 2014 accomplishments.



This icon will take you to an online video that we have produced.



This icon will allow you to read a full report or download it for future viewing.

NOTE: Links for these icons are not available on printed copies of this report.

Dear Friends,

This is my last note to you as I finish up my final board term. After six years of service, the last two as your president, I am happy to report that the organization is strong and healthy. Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council has a great staff and a truly amazing executive director in Gail Gruenwald.



It actually takes years on the board to understand all of the things this great organization does. There are all of the basics, including policy, advocacy, grant writing, stream and lake monitoring, rain garden construction, and stream bank stabilization. To that we have added the Watershed Academy and many other tasks!

We remain actively involved with big issues like the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline and fracking. I am proud of the organization for the strong science-based approach used. We never advocate based on what any one of the staff wants, but rather based on where the science takes us. By remaining science-based we have built a strong relationship with the Department of Natural Resources and Department of Environmental Quality, the legislature, and others. We always have a seat at the table because of our reasoned approach.

We should all be delighted with our organization and its achievements. As always, thank you for your support.

Howard W. Newkirk
Board President

Watershed Council

FRESH
WATER
CENTER

426 BAY ST.

Celebrating 35 Years

Protecting our Waters

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council addressed a number of issues in 2014. Some of the threats facing our watersheds were invasive species, stormwater runoff, and the accumulation of pharmaceuticals and plastic microbeads in our waters.

Over the past year, the Watershed Council has been highly engaged in oil and gas issues. We continued to champion for stronger regulations regarding the safety of our water, including a technique used during natural gas and oil development known as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, and significant research on the Line 5 pipeline that crosses the Straits of Mackinac and traverses through our service area.

These battles to protect our waters are not won single-handedly. We know that the future of our waters lies collectively in our hands.



Line 5 Pipeline

Line 5, owned and operated by Enbridge Energy Partners, is located in the Straits of Mackinac and traverses through Northern Michigan, crossing under and near many sensitive water resources. The Watershed Council has devoted significant time to research, public education and outreach, pipeline incident prevention, emergency preparedness, and advocacy.

In 2014, the Watershed Council conducted pipeline sensitivity mapping to identify areas along the pipeline route that are most at risk in the event of a spill. We also hosted a Northern Michigan Pipeline Symposium designed to raise awareness and understanding about pipeline issues and pipeline safety in Northern Michigan. The symposium involved presentations on pipeline safety and Enbridge's Line 5, as well as a panel question and answer session.

Additionally, we participated in emergency response preparedness efforts, which involved four Watershed Council staff who joined over 200 people in Indian River for a simulated pipeline exercise. We participated as staff in the Emergency Operations Center, which served as a central location for officials to coordinate response efforts, make decisions, and gather and disseminate information. We also took part in a wildlife rescue training.

The Watershed Council also served on the Local Emergency Planning Committee for Emmet County to help ensure our water resources are adequately considered and protected in the event of an emergency.



Did you miss the pipeline symposium?
We videotaped the whole thing! View it on our YouTube Channel.



Wetland Protection

For over four decades, advances in science have shown that protection of Great Lakes coastal wetlands is essential to the health of the Great Lakes. That is why we could not sit idly by and watch the destruction of Great Lakes coastal wetlands within our service area.

Since 2009, the Watershed Council had been working to protect 35 acres of Great Lakes coastal wetlands outside of the City of Cheboygan, along Duncan Bay. The original proposal was to build a luxury motorcoach RV park, depositing over 10,000 cubic yards of fill, and impacting nearly four wetland acres.

The initial permit was denied by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), but that decision was reversed during an appeal process for a modified proposal. The Watershed Council formally contested the MDEQ decision.

A shoreline survey of the parcel was conducted by the Watershed Council in 2013 while developing a Watershed Management Plan for Duncan and Grass Bays. This particular parcel included both submergent and emergent marsh and a variety of shade intolerant successional woodlands mix, along with shrub and herbaceous openings. This property creates, not only desirable habitat for wetland and upland birds, but also a significant greenbelt. Shoreline greenbelts reduce erosion by stabilizing the soil, slowing runoff, and filtering nutrients, sediments, and other pollution - all things that our Great Lakes need in times of shifting climates.

After five years of dispute, we convinced the applicant to engage with the Little Traverse Conservancy, who then purchased the land in the fall of 2014. Now this wetland, with 750 feet along Lake Huron, is protected.



Effective Restoration Advocacy

In 2014, Congressman Benishek joined Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and partners for a tour of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) projects. The group made visits to a stream restoration project on Lower Tannery Creek and the North Central Michigan College (NCMC) Stormwater Wetland. Project partners that assisted with the tour included staff from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Northwest Design Group Consulting Engineers, Top of Michigan Trails Council, and North Central Michigan College.

Our staff also led a site visit tour for Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Director, Dan Wyant, and his staff to visit a number of projects in Emmet County that are designed to protect water resources. Sites included a new clearspan bridge over Tannery Creek at the Little Traverse Wheelway and a natural shoreline demonstration site that was installed as part of the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership's Certified Natural Shoreline Professional training at Camp Pet-O-Se-Ga.



Engaging policy makers through site visits allows us to connect them to our water resources in a way that they will remember when it's time to make important decisions that

will impact the future of Michigan's most valuable natural resource - water.

Additionally, our Policy and Advocacy team continues to be fully engaged locally and at the state and federal levels. We ensure that Michigan's water resources have a voice among those that make decisions about their well-being.

Monitoring our Waters

Monitoring our waters is a perpetual year-long process. Whether we are in the field, in the lab, compiling data, or writing reports, there is always something to do.

Our monitoring efforts rely heavily on the assistance of trained volunteers from the community that share our passion for protecting our water resources. Keeping a watchful eye on the health of our waters each year is an enormous job and we couldn't do it without their help.



Our Monitoring Report includes the findings from our Volunteer Lake and Stream Monitoring programs, as well as our Comprehensive Water Quality Monitoring program.

Our Comprehensive Water Quality Monitoring (CWQM) database now includes over 8,000 water quality measurements! These data are used regularly by the Watershed Council to assess lake and stream health, develop watershed management plans, evaluate the success of restoration projects, and much more. It is not only a resource for us, but the data are also utilized for numerous organizations, agencies, local governments, and researchers in their efforts to protect the lakes and streams we cherish in Northern Michigan.

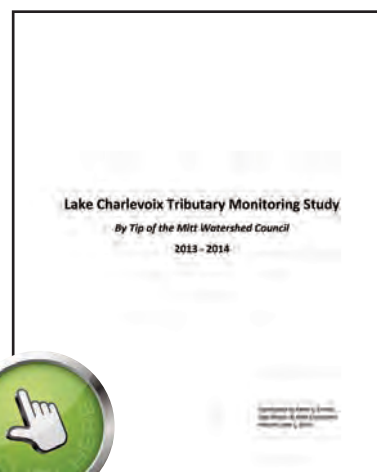


Coastal Tributary Monitoring

Northern Michigan is blessed with legendary streams. Rivers like the Jordan and Boyne have left their marks in history and continue to shape our communities. Many of our beloved streams have membership-based groups whose sole purpose is to carry out programs that protect them. On the other hand, there are lesser known streams that rarely receive attention, being forever in the shadow of their larger, more popular, counterparts. Thanks to support from the Joyce Foundation, they were front and center during our 2014 field season as part of a Coastal Tributary Study.

The purpose of the tributary study was to better understand the impacts of small coastal tributaries on the water quality of Lake Michigan. These small coastal streams generally escape notice and are not typically included in large-scale watershed management plans or monitoring programs. Individually, these small streams are thought to contribute few pollutants and have minimal impacts on the greater Lake Michigan ecosystem. However, we suspected that, collectively, those small coastal tributaries are an important part of the Great Lakes water quality equation.

When all was said and done, we found that our results ranged from comforting to concerning. Although these streams are small in size, when taken in aggregate, the impact of our coastal tributaries is BIG when it comes to the health of our lakes.





Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring

With a grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Clean Water Fund, the Watershed Council monitored the Elk River Chain of Lakes (ERCOL) for five priority invasive species: curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, invasive *Phragmites*, purple loosestrife, and quagga mussels. During 2014, monitoring was carried out in the Upper Chain from Beals Lake to Intermediate Lake. Monitoring was accomplished through benthic tows and visual surveys. In addition, detailed vegetation surveys were conducted on Hanley and Intermediate Lakes.

Following 35 benthic tows along the bottom of lakes and interconnecting waterways of the Upper Chain, not a single quagga mussel was found. Only two patches of *Phragmites* were documented after combing over 50 miles of shoreline. Not unexpectedly, purple loosestrife was found throughout the Upper Chain, but generally in small isolated patches. No curly-leaf pondweed was documented and Eurasian watermilfoil was found in small quantities in Six Mile and St. Clair Lakes only.

Monitoring continues in 2015 in the Lower Chain from Lake Bellaire to Elk Lake, with detailed vegetation surveys scheduled for Lake Skegemog and Elk Lake.

Surveying the Waters Edge

In preparation for developing a new Watershed Management Plan for Burt Lake and the Sturgeon River, Watershed Council staff and interns surveyed multiple lakes and streams during the summer of 2014. Lake shoreline surveys were conducted on Lance, Round, Silver, and Wildwood Lakes to document riparian vegetation (greenbelts), erosion, alterations (e.g., seawalls), and algae, which is a biological indicator of nutrient pollution. Additionally, University of Michigan Biological Station students surveyed Munro Lake.

The banks of the Sturgeon River from Wolverine to Burt Lake, the Maple River from Woodland Road to Brutus Road, and the Crooked River from Crooked Lake to Burt Lake, were surveyed for erosion. **In total, 532 lakeshore properties and 26 miles of river were surveyed.** Results will be used as a foundational assessment of nonpoint source pollution in the Burt Lake – Sturgeon River Watershed Management Plan.

Stormwater Monitoring

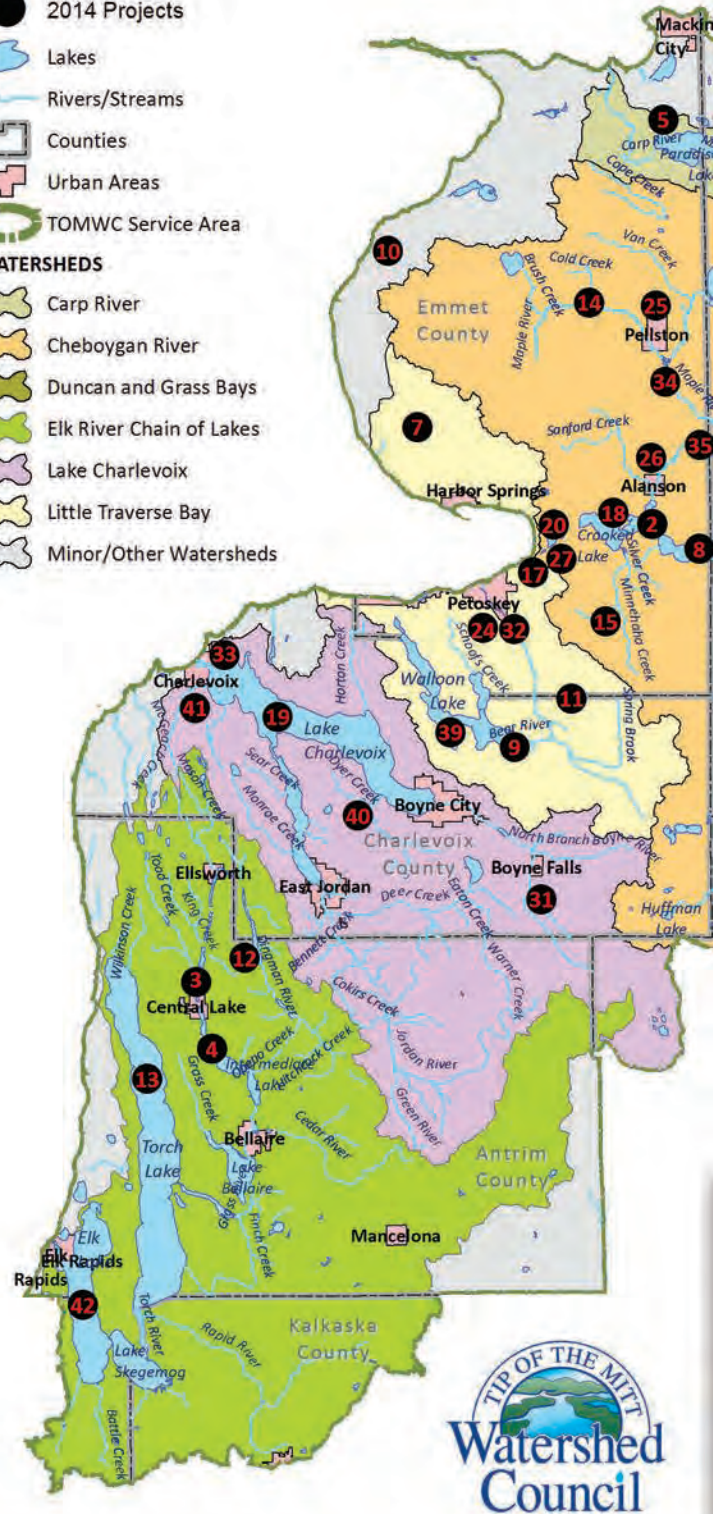
Thanks to grants from both the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area and Charlevoix County Community Foundations, the Watershed Council was able to work with Environmental Canine Services (ECS), a company that utilizes dogs trained specifically to identify human sewage through scent in storm sewer systems. This cost-efficient method provides a rapid screening tool for illicit sewage discharge detection. ECS was joined by Watershed Council staff and Department of Public Works representatives on a tour of Petoskey and Charlevoix, checking dozens of locations to determine if there were any human fecal contamination problems in the municipal stormwater systems. Watershed Council staff later met with both cities to discuss the findings and plan next steps for protecting our waters.



1. **Aquatic Vegetation Survey:** the Black Lake Association sponsored a comprehensive survey of aquatic vegetation and walleye habitat.
2. **Aquatic Vegetation Survey:** the Pickerel-Crooked Lakes Association worked with local units of government to fund a comprehensive survey of Round Lake and the Crooked River.
3. **Aquatic Vegetation Survey:** a comprehensive survey of Hanley Lake was conducted as part of an invasive species monitoring grant from Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).
4. **Aquatic Vegetation Survey:** a grant was recieved from the MDEQ to conduct invasive species moniotoring on Intermediate Lake in 2014.
5. **Educational Workshop:** partnered with Paradise Lake Association (PLA) to present a natural shoreline workshop for homeowners.
6. **Educational Workshop:** partnered with Mullett Area Preservation Society (MAPS) to provide a shoreline landscape design for water quality protection workshop.
7. **Educational Workshop:** hosted an Invasive Species Workshop for local road commissions to bring greater awareness about "roadside invaders" and their management.
8. **Educational Workshop:** co-instructed a Certified Natural Shoreline Professional training at Camp Pet-O-Se-Ga on Pickerel Lake.
9. **Greenbelt Installations:** as part of our partnership with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, five greenbelts on Walloon Lake and the Bear River was installed and enhanced with Michigan native plants with support from a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant.
10. **Invasive Species Management:** all 70+ miles of Lake Michigan shoreline in Emmet County was surveyed for the third time for invasive *Phragmites*.
11. **Invasive Species Management:** purple loosestrife control efforts were carried out by dispersing *Galerucella* beetles in the Bear River corridor.
12. **Invasive Species Management:** the Upper Elk River Chain of Lakes, from Beals Lake to Intermediate Lake was surveyed for *Phragmites*, purple loosestrife, Eurasian watermilfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, and quagga mussels.
13. **Priority Parcel Analysis:** final products of the priority parcel analysis for the Torch Lake Watershed was used to prioritize permanent land protection efforts.
14. **Road-stream Crossing Inventory:** priority road-stream crossings was inventoried in the Maple River Watershed and other Burt Lake direct tributaries.
15. **Road-stream Crossing Inventory:** priority road-stream crossings was inventoried in the Crooked River Watershed.
16. **Road-stream Crossing Inventory:** priority road-stream crossings was inventoried in the Sturgeon River Watershed, field work to be conducted by Huron Pines.
17. **Shoreline and Streambank Restoration:** we will be putting the final touches on our Tannery Creek restoration project by installing Michigan native plants on the streambanks and in the area immediately around the new timber bridge.

Legend

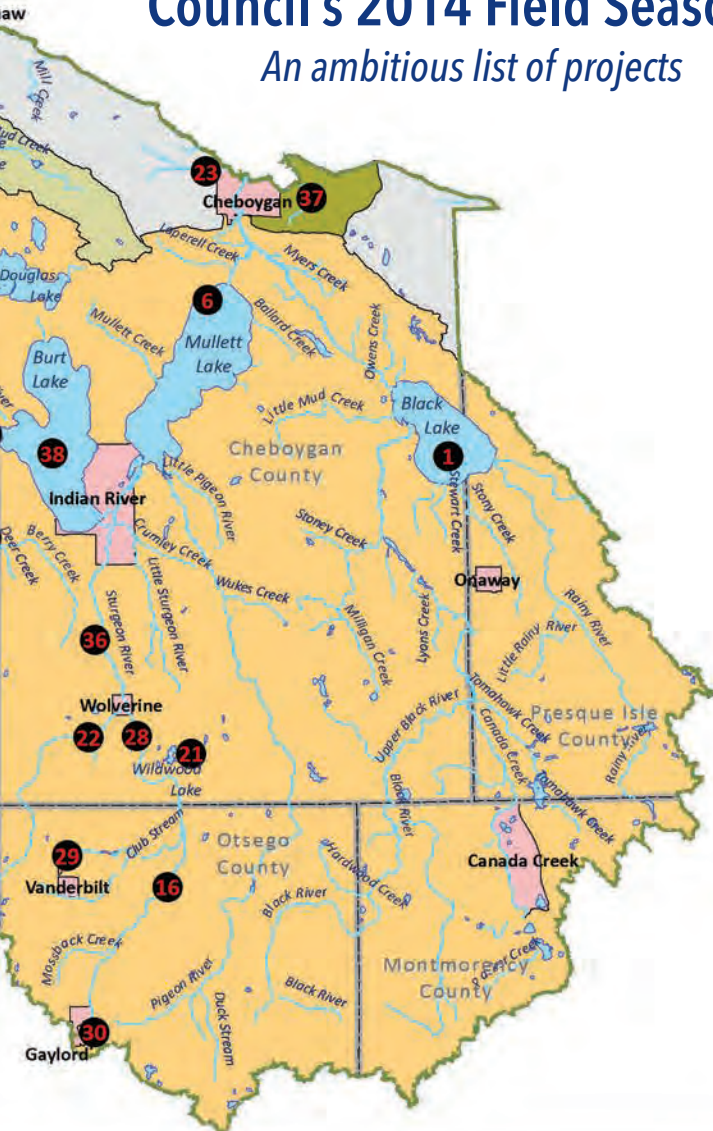
- 2014 Projects
 - ☁ Lakes
 - Rivers/Streams
 - Counties
 - ⊕ Urban Areas
 - TOMWC Service Area
- ### WATERSHEDS
- ☞ Carp River
 - ☞ Cheboygan River
 - ☞ Duncan and Grass Bays
 - ☞ Elk River Chain of Lakes
 - ☞ Lake Charlevoix
 - ☞ Little Traverse Bay
 - ☞ Minor/Other Watersheds



18. **Shoreline Survey:** follow-up to the 2012 survey on Crooked and Pickerel Lakes continued with property management assessment letters and informational brochures mailed to riparians.
19. **Shoreline Survey:** questionnaires to assess shoreline property management were planned to go out to riparians as follow-up to Lake Charlevoix survey. This project was not completed.

Overview of the Watershed Council's 2014 Field Season:

An ambitious list of projects



- 20. Shoreline Survey:** Round Lake was surveyed to gather information for development of the Burt Lake – Sturgeon River Watershed Management plan.
- 21. Shoreline Survey:** Wildwood and Lance Lakes was surveyed to gather information for development of the Burt Lake – Sturgeon River Watershed Management Plan.
- 22. Shoreline Survey:** Silver Lake was surveyed to gather information for development of the Burt Lake – Sturgeon River Watershed Management Plan.
- 23. Stormwater Management:** we continued working with the City of Cheboygan to assess stormwater impacts to Duncan Bay.
- 24. Stormwater Management:** continued installation of rain gardens in Bay View as part of Little Traverse Bay Stormwater Management Initiative.
- 25. Stormwater Management:** Pellston was surveyed to gather information for development of the Burt Lake – Sturgeon River Watershed Management Plan.

- 26. Stormwater Management:** Alanson was surveyed to gather information for development of the Burt Lake – Sturgeon River Watershed Management Plan.
- 27. Stormwater Management:** the urbanized area around Spring Lake was surveyed to gather information for development of the Burt Lake – Sturgeon River Watershed Management Plan.
- 28. Stormwater Management:** planned to survey Wolverine in 2014 to gather information for development of the Burt Lake – Sturgeon River Watershed Management Plan.
- 29. Stormwater Management:** planned to survey Vanderbilt in 2014 to gather information for development of the Burt Lake – Sturgeon River Watershed Management Plan.
- 30. Stormwater Management:** planned to survey the northern end of Gaylord in 2014 to gather information for development of the Burt Lake – Sturgeon River Watershed Management Plan.
- 31. Stormwater Management:** we continued to work with the Village of Boyne Falls to manage stormwater that threatens the Boyne River.
- 32. Stormwater Management:** dogs from Environmental Canine Services helped us identify any sources of fecal contamination in the City of Petoskey storm sewer system.
- 33. Stormwater Management:** dogs from Environmental Canine Services helped us identify sources of fecal contamination in the City of Charlevoix storm sewer system.
- 34. Streambank Erosion Survey:** the lower Maple River from Lake Kathleen to Burt Lake was surveyed for streambank erosion.
- 35. Streambank Erosion Survey:** the Crooked River from Crooked Lake to Burt Lake was surveyed for streambank erosion.
- 36. Streambank Erosion Survey:** the Sturgeon River from Wolverine to Burt Lake was surveyed for streambank erosion.
- 37. Water Quality Monitoring:** we continued monitoring Duncan Bay, Grass Bay, and tributaries for our nonpoint source pollution assessment that will be used for watershed management plan development.
- 38. Water Quality Monitoring:** we began our monitoring of the Burt Lake tributaries for our nonpoint source pollution assessment that will be used for watershed management plan development.
- 39. Water Quality Monitoring:** this was year 18 of early spring phosphorus monitoring in all five basins of Walloon Lake.
- 40. Water Quality Monitoring:** we continued our Lake Charlevoix Tributary Study, monitoring all major tributaries flowing into the lake six times throughout this year.
- 41. Water Quality Monitoring:** we continued monitoring four locations on Stover Creek to collect data that will help write the Stover Creek Restoration Plan.
- 42. Water Quality Monitoring:** this was the 14th year of monitoring Elk and Skegemog Lakes, which we visit four times throughout the spring, summer, and fall to collect physical and chemical data from both lakes.

Inspiring Change

Knowledge is power! The more aware people are of the fragility of our waters against the attacks of invasive species, polluted stormwater runoff, pharmaceuticals and plastic microbeads, the more they want to do their part to protect our waters. That is why we spend a great deal of time engaging communities through workshops, events, and targeted campaigns. Our Aquavist Network stay abreast of current issues via email blasts directly from our policy team and our website is continually updated, so the public is armed with a wide variety of current resources.



POD Program

In 2014, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council embarked upon a media and education campaign to raise awareness about the Northern Michigan Prescription and Over-the-Counter Drug Drop-off (POD) Program. The POD Program is a multicounty take-back initiative that provides a convenient and environmentally sound way for residents to properly dispose of medications. The Program includes community collection events in Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, and Emmet Counties, as well as over 20 permanent collection drop boxes at law enforcement agencies throughout Northern Michigan.

The POD Program boasts eight years of implementation. However, there are still many people who are not aware of the program or who are not using this community service. In 2014, the POD Campaign reached out – through magazine and television ads and targeted outreach – to tell everyone to **Put Your Pills in the POD!**



Over 4,500 lbs.
of unwanted
pharmaceuticals
collected in 2014!

For more information about this program,
visit www.pillsinthepod.com





Watershed Awareness

The *Little Traverse Bay Watershed: Stormwater Matters* project is the Watershed Council's public outreach campaign to bring awareness to the community about stormwater, how it impacts water resources, and how it can be managed to protect water quality. Stormwater management is a critical piece of watershed protection because stormwater carries nonpoint source pollutants to our lakes, streams, and wetlands.

In 2014, the Watershed Council was awarded a grant from the Michigan Coastal Zone Management Program, Office of the Great Lakes, Department of Environmental Quality and National Oceanic and Atmosphere (NOAA) to expand this education and outreach program. These programs began in 2015.

Additionally, thanks to support from the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, Little Traverse Bay Watershed awareness signs were installed on major roads where they intersect with the Watershed boundary. The signs bring watershed awareness to residents and visitors by welcoming them as they enter the Watershed.



Roadside Invaders Workshop

Many invasive plant species are spread inadvertently by road commissions when road maintenance is performed. Mowing and ditch clearing are particularly detrimental when invasive plants are present. In fact, mowing actually stimulates growth of some invasive species, such as invasive *Phragmites* and Japanese knotweed, thereby worsening the infestation. Given the variety of invasive plants that are prone to populating roadsides and the complexity of treatment options, road commissions are faced with the ongoing challenge of staying informed.

Thanks to a grant from the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council hosted an invasive plant species workshop geared toward local county road commissions, conservation districts, and other organizations. The event featured presentations from invasive plant species experts, including: Phyllis Higman, Michigan Natural Features Inventory; Vern Stephens, Designs by Nature; and Heidi Shaffer, Antrim Conservation District. Attendees learned how road commissions play an important role in controlling the spread of invasive plant species.

To assist with field identification, sets of quick reference cards were developed and distributed. The cards feature the top twelve invasive plants that are considered particularly noxious and pose the greatest threat to our natural resources and road infrastructure. Information is given for each species along with photos for easy identification. Recommended



treatment options are also detailed. The laminated cards are connected with a carabiner and will be kept in the road commission vehicles for quick access while in the field and on the road.

Engaging the Next Generation



Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council is dedicated to providing students with educational opportunities with a focus on watershed protection. Whether we are modeling good stewardship through a river cleanup, exploring the hands-on watershed model, or peering through the microscope at the exciting world of aquatic macroinvertebrates, we know that we are inspiring the next generation of watershed protection stewards.



A Family Tradition - Healing the Bear

As the Bear River meanders from Walloon Lake to Petoskey, it accumulates a lot of garbage from road crossings, urban areas, and illegal dumping. On the morning of August 23rd, volunteers of all ages set out to clean up the river and keep it healthy during the "Healing the Bear" Bear River Cleanup. Although faced with slippery banks, fast flows, poison ivy, and two skunks, the volunteers prevailed. Over 7 cubic yards of trash and recyclables were removed from the river.

After hosting the event over the past 15 years we have seen children grow up, move on to college and participate in cleanups elsewhere. It's truly rewarding to know we're making an impact on how they view the health of our waters.





Communicating Good Stewardship

Meet the talented people behind the Watershed Council's new POD commercial. Animation students from North Central Michigan College took on a special project with enthusiasm and dedication. We wanted to provide the students with a real-world opportunity, something they could put in their portfolio as they progress in their careers. Working with animation instructor, Anne Morningstar, we were able to create a special program that allowed them to earn college credit for their work. They also learned about the POD program and were able to share our important message with all of Northern Michigan using their newly learned skills. The animated commercial can be seen on local network stations ABC, CBS, Fox, and NBC.

Above left to right: Logan Ward, Michael Harlan, Shelby Stevens, and Joey Anderson.



Earth Day Programs

In 2014, we partnered with the Petoskey Public Library to offer an Earth Day youth event. Children enjoyed the hands-on watershed model and explored aquatic macroinvertebrates. In April, we also participated in the family-friendly Earth Week Plus event in Cheboygan, which featured presentations about the earth and its creatures, with displays and exhibits for all ages.



Students Experience Lake Charlevoix

For over two decades, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council has teamed up with the Lake Charlevoix Association and a number of volunteers to provide an educational experience like no other. Over 300 middle school students from across Charlevoix County took part in the 21st annual Students Experience Lake Charlevoix. This half-day, hands-on event takes place aboard the Beaver Islander Ferry and introduces students to aquatic invasive species, benthic environments, Secchi disk depths, pH, sources of pollution, and more.



Students Learn about Stormwater

In February, while it is quite cold and the snow seems like it will never melt, the Watershed Council enjoyed a visit from the Program for Able Learners with Special Needs (PALS). The students learned about watersheds and what they can do to protect them from polluted stormwater runoff and invasive species.

Small beginnings, big impact.

For over three decades, our programs have reached far and wide. Like ripples on a pond, they continue to grow.

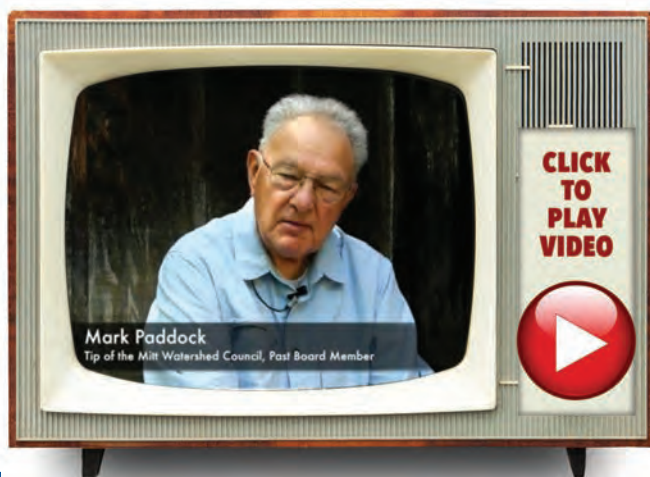
Since 1979, our service area has expanded to include watersheds within **Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, and Emmet Counties** - plus areas of Presque Isle, Montmorency, Otsego, Kalkaska, and Grand Traverse Counties.

1983
Membership
141
2014 Membership
3,042

Average
Membership
Gift*
\$162

*2014

Watch our 35th Anniversary Video
The 20 minute video features interviews with members and staff that have shaped our organization over the past 35 years.



YouTube

Staff members
10
2014 Volunteers
306

2014 Annual Report

THANK YOU *for your Membership and Support*

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\$1,000 or more

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Despite double digit, sub-zero temperatures, a handful of our Volunteer Stream Monitoring group gathered for the annual Winter Potluck in February 2014. However, to avoid frostbite, they did forgo the usual search for aquatic macroinvertebrates.

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Susanne Larrabee
Michelle Buse
Rachel Rehor

ANIMATED POD COMMERCIAL

Anne Morningstar
Logan Ward
Michael Harlen
Shelby Stevens
Joey Anderson



RSVP Volunteers

Sharon Brown
Gretchen Peck

Healing the Bear - Bear River Cleanup

Kristin Allen
Carol Arntz
Joe Sr. Barbercheck
Joe Jr. Barbercheck
Libby Barbercheck
Norman Baumhardt
Tonya Baumhardt
Milo Baumhardt
Anya Baxter
Alex Baxter
Cari Bellicini
Kristy Beyer
Tim Bigelow
Sue Bouwense
Katie Braendle
Megan Braendle
Elizabeth Braendle
Micah Braendle
Kristina Brown
Matt Claucherty
Ruth Clausen
Kat Crowley
Wil Cwikiel
Terry Daniels
Anne Donakowski
Larry Dyer
Ellie Dyer
Gavin Dyer
Regine Egolf
Thomas Egolf
Brendon Egolf
Louis Fantini

Joseph Farley
Andy Fetting
Anne Foster
Brad Foster
Rick Fowler
Christine Gebhard
Gail Gruenwald
Heather Huffstutler
Sue Hutchinson
Ethan Jacobs
Doreen Jagodnik
Kylah Johnston
Marley Kalt
Shari Kalt
Betsie Leiberman
James McConnell
Jennifer McKay
Max Morand
Tom Morrow
Merilyn Morrow
Thea Murray
Dan Myers
John Norton
Denise Petoskey
Lee Phillips
Margo Pickl
Tom Renkes
Judy Reynolds
Wally Reynolds
Margaret Ritchie
Thomas Ritchie
George Robson
Trish Shattuck
Jane Sielski
Ted Sielski
Betty Simon
Jenni Smith
Nancy Stewart
Hal Thorson
Carolyn Tripp
Amy Tweeten
Chris Voran
Brice Voran
Sally Wagle
Sharon Walker
Dolores Wehrenberg
Todd Winnell
Kate Winnell
Jen Winnell
Isaac Winnell
Virginia Zimmerman



Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council had another great year in 2014, both in terms of finance and programming. Despite the fact that we received fewer donations, grants, and investment income this year, our net assets increased slightly. Operating expenses came in right on budget. The market was down substantially this year, but we still made a respectable return on our investments. The Asset Repair and Replacement Fund (ARRF) has grown to \$163,918 from our original investment of \$85,000 in 2011. Cash flow provided sufficient funds for operating all year and it was not necessary to tap into our credit line. Some ongoing grant project activities were delayed until 2015 and that moved expected grant income and expense into 2015 as well.

Statement of Activities for the year ending December 31, 2014

REVENUE and SUPPORT

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total All Funds
Contributions	467,877		1,875	469,752
Grants		401,786		401,786
Net assets released from restriction	401,786	(401,786)		-
Contract Services	30,524			30,524
Dividend & Interest	30,102			30,102
Other Income	15,260	923		16,183
Revenues	945,549	923	1,875	948,347
Realized and unrealized gains on investments	39,451			39,451
Net change in valuation of net assets at foundations			(1,825)	(1,825)
Support from investments	39,451	-	(1,825)	37,626
Total revenue and support	985,000	923	50	985,973

EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES:

Policy and Advocacy	282,789			282,789
Watershed Protection	472,156			472,156
Communications	143,276			143,276
Total program services	898,221			898,221

SUPPORT SERVICES:

Management	23,254			23,254
Fundraising	36,662			36,662
Total supporting services	59,916			59,916

Total expenses 958,137 958,137

Increase (decrease) in Net Assets

Net assets, January 1, 2014	1,524,682	8,929	935,261	2,468,872
Net assets, December 21, 2014	1,551,545	9,852	935,311	2,496,708

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2014

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash in bank	78,407
Accounts receivable	884
Grants receivable	53,273
Inventory	5,985
Prepaid expenses	<u>23,234</u>
Total current assets	161,783

Land, Building, Furniture & Equipment

Fixed Assets, net of depreciation	\$722,870
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Other Assets

Investments	1,292,637
Pooled income fund	10,094
Net invested in community foundations	<u>415,791</u>
Total other assets	<u>1,718,522</u>
Total assets	<u><u>2,603,175</u></u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities

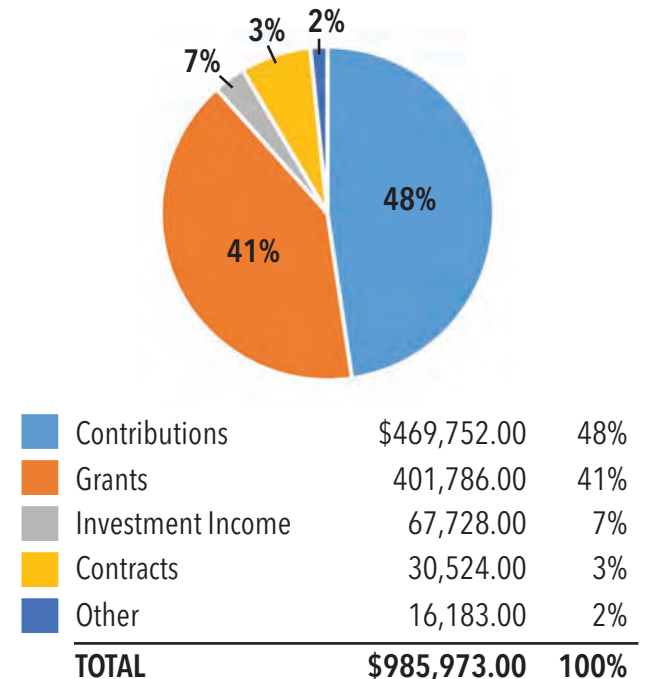
Accounts payable	24,966
Accrued expenses	19,780
Unearned revenues	<u>61,721</u>
Total current liabilities	106,467

Net Assets

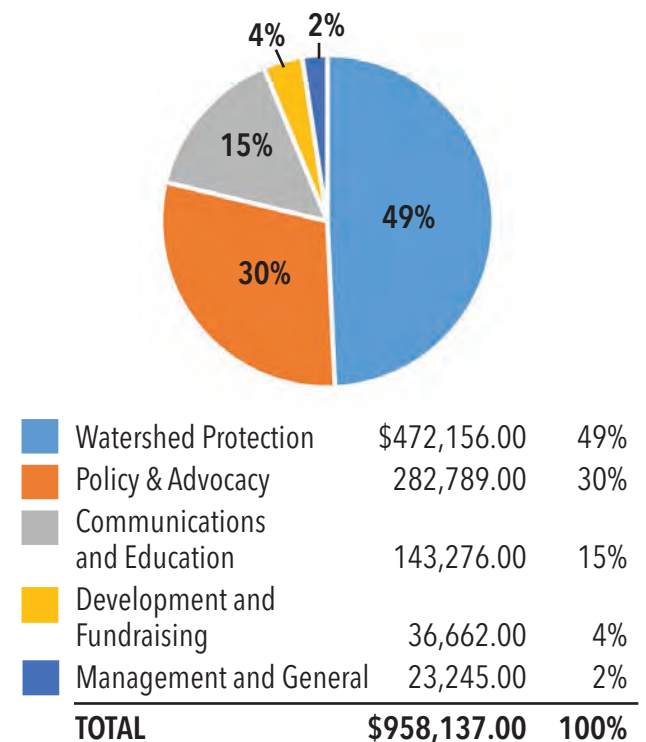
Unrestricted:

Asset repairs and replacements	163,918
Operating	<u>1,387,627</u>
Total unrestricted	1,551,545
Temporarily restricted	9,852
Permanently restricted	<u>935,311</u>
Total net assets	<u>2,496,708</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u><u>2,603,175</u></u>

Revenue



Expenses



Click here to view our audited financial statement.



2014 Staff and Interns



Back Row (left to right): Matt Claucherty, Kat Crowley, Meghan Hemken, Kyla Johnston, Debbie Esposito, Lynn D. Buffington, Sandy Schreck, Jennifer Buchanan Gelb, Grenetta Thomassey, and Kevin Cronk. **Front Row** (left to right): Kristy Beyer, Dan Myers, Sara Vaughan, Victoria Jordan, Marley Kalt, Jennifer McKay, Kate Cwikiel, and Gail Gruenwald. (Missing in photo: Kaye LaFond.)



Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

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Petoskey, MI 49770

(231) 347-1181 phone
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www.watershedcouncil.org



Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We rely on memberships, donations, and grants from environmentally conscience individuals... people like you... that care about our water resources.