



Opportunity to Comment on Line 5 Coming Soon

The State of Michigan is conducting two independent, third party studies on the 4.6 mile stretch of Enbridge's Line 5 located in the Straits of Mackinac. An alternatives analysis will compare alternatives to the existing Straits pipelines, such as different routes or complete replacement. A risk analysis will focus on Enbridge's potential liability for a worst case scenario spill from the Straits pipelines and its responsibility to maintain adequate financial assurance should such a spill occur. Both analyses will provide information and data to assist the State of Michigan in future decisions about the Straits Pipelines.

A draft Alternatives Analysis Report was released on June 29, 2017. The report can be accessed in its entirety on the Michigan Petroleum Pipelines website, www.mipetroleumpipelines.com. A 30-day public comment period on the report developed by independent contractor Dynamic Risk Assessment Systems, Inc. opens July 6. Comments can be submitted at public feedback meetings (see dates below), online at the Michigan Petroleum Pipelines website, by email through the website, or by standard mail. After the initial 30-day comment period, the public will have another 15 days to reply to posted comments.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Thursday, July 6 - Lansing, Michigan

The information meeting will have presentations from contractors on the draft reports and a question and answer session. Venue and time will be announced 14 days prior to start of public comment period.

PUBLIC FEEDBACK SESSIONS

- **Monday, July 24:** Holt High School
5885 Holt Road, **Holt**, beginning at 8 a.m.
- **Monday, July 24:** Hagerty Center at
Northwestern Michigan College
715 East Front St., **Traverse City**, starting at 6 p.m.
- **Tuesday, July 25:** Little Bear East Arena
275 Marquette St., **St. Ignace**, beginning at 6 p.m.

The State terminated its contract with Det Norske Veritas (U.S.A.) Inc., (DNV) which was performing the risk analysis on the pipeline, due to a conflict of interest that arose with a DNV GL employee. Therefore, no risk analysis is being offered for public comment at this time. The State is exploring its options for gaining the necessary information and no decisions have been made at this time regarding how to proceed with a risk analysis.

Helping to Guide Decisions on the Future of Line 5 in the Straits of Mackinac

Thanks to the generous funding of the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation and the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council will be hosting a series of workshops to help citizens make the most of the upcoming public comment period on the draft analysis.

During the workshop you will learn:

- What's inside the Line 5 Independent Alternatives Analysis draft report.
- When and how public comments will be accepted on the draft report.
- What types of public comment are most effective.

Public engagement in this important topic will improve decision making by the State and will serve to make sure that future operations of Line 5 are based on a careful review of the alternative report and a respectful consideration of area residents. Be sure to join us at one of the Watershed Council Line 5 Public Engagement Workshops to gain valuable knowledge and resources to help you effectively participate in the public processes.

- **July 12 St. Ignace - 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**
Little Bear Arena, 275 Marquette Street
- **July 13 Alanson - 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Littlefield-Alanson Community Building, 7631 Burr Avenue
- **July 13 Petoskey - 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**
North Central Michigan College - Iron Horse Cafe
1515 Howard Street
- **July 18 Boyne City - 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**
Boyne District Library, 201 E. Main Street
- **July 18 Charlevoix - 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**
Charlevoix Public Library, 220 West Clinton Street
- **July 19 Cheboygan - 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**
Cheboygan Area Public Library, 100 S. Bailey Street
- **July 19 Mackinaw City - 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**
Mackinaw Area Public Library, 528 W. Central Avenue



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Reflections From Our Executive Director

One of the most important value statements guiding the Watershed Council's mission is the "optimistic belief in the capacity to change human behavior." We rely on this core value to continue to move forward during the times when our water resources are most at risk. Now is one of those times.

While Congress stepped up and reinstated \$50 million of the \$300 million of past annual funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative program when it was removed from the federal administration's budget this year, we are still battling the zero budget for this program for 2018. In addition, we hear each day of new directives to dismantle water quality regulations and programs administered on our behalf by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We continue to wait for word on proposals submitted to the EPA over nine months ago for critical watershed management and restoration work. While this is occurring on the national stage, the Michigan legislature is also proposing reductions in State responsibilities to protect our treasured natural resources.

However, while this is unfolding, I am constantly reassured by our members and supporters as you step up to fill the void. Please know how heartening this is. Many of you have seen fit to increase your contributions this year. Truly, your generosity and moral support is the fuel that keeps us optimistic that we will continue to make progress on behalf of our waters.

This newsletter is full of examples of our work with devoted partners, government officials, lake associations, foundations, volunteers, and others. We couldn't accomplish this work without all of them. But it is you, our members, that give us the hope and enthusiasm to address each issue as it arises and keep the long-term view in sight. Thank you all for your support of our work!

On a personal note, our long time member and past Board Treasurer, Dick Lent, passed away in May. Quite often accountants are straight shooters, and Dick was one of those. I always appreciated his guidance, knowledge, wit, and support. I sent him a note several months ago knowing he was going through health issues. Below is what I received in return.

Dear Gail, I received your note and appreciate the kind comments. My association with the non-profit community here was very enjoyable and helpful to me over the last 30 plus years of retirement. I always enjoyed working with you because you did not play politics. I always felt the person I saw was the person you are. And you are special.

Your note was a special gift, thank you.

– Dick

Members like Dick are what keep me focused on the work at hand. He will be missed.



Gail Gruenwald
Executive Director



Rain barrels are on display at the Watershed Council office. Stop in and see them.

Rain Barrels Available!

Some of the best things in life are free -- rainwater is one of them! Every time it rains, you could be collecting the runoff to use at a later, dryer date. Rain barrels capture rain that might otherwise be lost to the storm drain. They can be used to reduce the runoff from your property, protect water quality, help your houseplants and flower beds thrive, and save money on your water bill.

This spring the Watershed Council and Emmet County Recycling hosted an Earth Day Sale where we sold rain barrels, compost bins, and backyard food waste digesters at discounted prices. **There is still a limited supply of rain barrels available! They are \$69 each.** Call us today at (231) 347-1181 to purchase yours.

Nestlé Update

Nestlé Waters North America, Inc. (Nestlé) is seeking to increase its current water withdrawal from 250 gallons per minute (gpm) to 400 gpm. The request is to increase production for Ice Mountain bottled water from an existing well, White Pines Spring, located near Evart, Michigan. In order to increase the volume of water withdrawn, Nestlé must obtain a Section 17 Permit under Michigan's Safe Drinking Water Act. Section 17 evaluates if the water is safe to drink and that there will be no adverse impact to the Watershed. Nestlé submitted a permit application to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) in July of 2016. This is the first permit application the MDEQ has received under Section 17. Public comment was extensive, with more than 50,000 comments submitted.

The Watershed Council joined with Michigan Environmental Council, National Wildlife Federation, Michigan Trout Unlimited, and Michigan League of Conservation Voters in submitting comments that stated Nestlé had not provided sufficient

information to meet the requirements of Michigan law to issue a permit for an expanded withdrawal. We urged the MDEQ to address a number of issues prior to making any decision, including deficiencies in the decision-making process, limitations on flow reductions, identification of improvement projects to offset hydrologic impacts of an increased withdrawal, and monitoring requirements.

Given the volume of information the MDEQ has to review, including the numerous public comments, an exact decision date is not known.



Rolling Back Environmental Protections

We are seeing a theme in both Washington, D.C. and Lansing to roll-back existing environmental protections.

In Michigan, we have House Bill 4205, which would prohibit state agencies from adopting or creating rules that are stricter than federal standards. Under the bill, a more stringent state rule would only be permitted if the Director of an agency determined there was a preponderance of evidence to exceed the federal standard and provided an explanation of the exceptional circumstances that necessitate the more stringent standard. In Michigan, our Great Lakes and natural resources are central to our economy and our way of life, and as such, they warrant the utmost protection. Instead of giving state agencies the flexibility they need to develop a regulatory structure that fits Michigan's unique natural resources, this bill would add to an already lengthy rule-making process and defer critical decisions about the protection of our natural resources and public health to the federal government.

In D.C., Congress is considering legislation that would roll back shipping vessel ballast cleanup rules. The Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA) would throw away the most effective tools we have for preventing harmful invasive species from entering our waterways and undermine our nation's ability to combat the spread of invasive aquatic species. VIDA would transfer regulatory authority from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) — the agency with water pollution expertise — to the Coast Guard, whose top priority is homeland security. Stopping invasive species before they enter the Great Lakes is critical to the health of the Lakes and the millions of people that rely on them. We have made important progress toward this goal and now is not the time to go backward.



As if these weren't bad enough, President Trump's full budget request for the 2018 fiscal year completely eliminates funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), an effective program responsible for cleaning up toxic pollution, restoring wildlife habitat, controlling invasive species, and reducing runoff from cities and farms. Thanks to the GLRI, the Watershed Council has helped protect the water quality of Little Traverse Bay by implementing stormwater best management practices including road and stream crossing improvements; construction of a stormwater wetland; streambank restoration; and construction of rain gardens. The most recent GLRI funding we received was to evaluate the open water use of Zequanox, a bio-based control for invasive zebra and quagga mussels. Given the millions of people who depend on the Great Lakes, now is not the time to cut funding. We look forward to working with Republicans and Democrats in Congress to restore funding to Great Lakes protection efforts that are producing results for the environment and economy in communities across the region.



For more information, contact Grenetta Thomassey, Watershed Policy Director, at grenetta@watershedcouncil.org or (231) 347-1181 ext. 118 or visit the Aquavist webpage at www.watershedcouncil.org/aquavist-network.

The Watershed Council has advisory committees working around our service area to implement approved watershed management plans. If you are ever interested in attending these meetings in your watershed, you are very welcome! They are open to the public, including local businesses and citizens. If you have questions about attending, call Grenetta Thomassey at 231-347-1181 ext. 118.

Our most recent plan approval was for the Duncan-Grass Bays Watershed, near the City of Cheboygan. This is a new plan for an area quite small in size, but important for habitat and water quality protection. The advisory committee meets two more times this year on July 17 and August 28.

Currently, we are awaiting approval for two other plans: Burt Lake and Little Traverse Bay. Burt Lake is also a new plan. The Burt Lake Watershed covers a very large area, including the Sturgeon, Crooked, and Maple Rivers. This newly forming

committee will meet twice this year on July 12 and September 13. The current Little Traverse Bay Watershed Protection Plan is an update of an existing plan, approved in 2007. The Little Traverse Bay committee meets four times a year. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for September 12 and December 5.

The next plan we submit for approval will be for the Elk River Chain of Lakes (ERCOL). We have a first draft completed, and are working on other components this year. We expect to submit a draft for approval later in the year. This Watershed Plan Implementation Team (WPIT) meets every other month, with meetings set for July 19, September 20, and November 15.

Finally, our Lake Charlevoix Watershed Management Plan was updated and approved in 2012. That advisory committee meets four times a year, and we are well underway with work to implement this Plan. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for September 14 and December 7.

Lake Association Summit

The Watershed Council held our 12th Annual Lake Association Summit on Monday, June 19 at the Perry Hotel. This year's Summit was called: H2Ohhh, I didn't know that!

Our Keynote Speaker was Dr. Linda Greer, interim director at the University of Michigan Biological Station. Her talk was called "Mercury in our Fish: A Global Threat, with a New Global Solution in Hand." Prior to her position at the Biological Station, Dr. Greer worked as a senior scientist at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). Her focus was toxic chemicals in air, water, food, and shelter. She led NRDC's work on industrial pollution abroad. In China, her mercury use inventory became the basis for a binding treaty to reduce mercury use and release around the world.

We also featured an update on Line 5, presented by the Watershed Council policy director Jennifer McKay, who serves on the

Michigan Pipeline Advisory Board. McKay talked about the important risk analysis and alternatives analysis reports being released by the State. These analyses will be presented for public comment. McKay spoke about that process, including workshops being offered by the Watershed Council this summer to help people comment on this critical topic.

Kristy Beyer, Watershed Council communications director, presented information to help lake associations use social media to communicate to members. Finally, we heard from all the lake association representatives who shared their top two priorities for summer 2017 and asked questions that were relevant to a good conversation.

Another successful Lake Association Summit is in the record books! Thanks to all who attended.



LAKE
ASSOCIATIONS
PARTICIPATING

21

400 PROPERTY
OWNERS
HAVE JOINED

SHORELINE SURVEYED
15+ MILES



110 GOLD SHORELINES*



119 SILVER SHORELINES*



94 BRONZE SHORELINES*

* AS OF JUNE 2017

Michigan Shoreland Stewards Program

Thanks to the Michigan Shoreland Stewards Program (MiSS), Michigan riparians are learning more about what they can do to protect the health of their lakes.

Last year, the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council worked with the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership to launch the MiSS Program. The MiSS program is a web-based survey that provides recognition and resources for property owners who are using best management practices to protect their lake.

Activities associated with high-impact development, such as removing native plants on the shoreline and in the water, change the lake ecosystem and disrupt natural habitats for wildlife and fish. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Lakes Assessment, 40% of Michigan's inland lakes were rated as poor with another 20% rated as fair for lakeshore habitat.

In order to help property owners understand how they can positively impact the health of their lake, the online survey breaks the shoreline property into 4 sections: the upland zone, the buffer or greenbelt zone, the shoreline zone, and the lake zone. Specific questions about property management practices in each zone help the survey taker understand the impact of their actions. For example, the survey asks whether there is erosion present at their shoreline. The respondent's answers are used to determine areas for improvement and potentially qualify them for a certificate of recognition. Respondents can qualify to be recognized as a gold, silver, or bronze level Shoreland Steward. In addition to a complimentary printable certificate, Shoreland Stewards have the option of purchasing a sign for their properties to promote natural shorelines on their lake.

As of June 2017, 21 lake associations and over 400 property owners all over Michigan have joined the program since its premier in April 2016, and more than 15 miles of shoreline have been surveyed. Of the survey respondents, 110 qualified as gold Shoreland Stewards, 119 silver, and 94 bronze.

If you own lakefront property and are interested in being recognized for your good management practices or you want to see how you can improve your management, the MiSS is here for you! For information on the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership, visit www.mishorelinepartnership.org. To take the MiSS Program survey visit www.mishorelandstewards.org. If you have questions about the program, contact Eli Baker at eli@watershedcouncil.org or call 231-347-1181.

SHORELAND

How does your shoreline rate for protecting water quality?

Take the survey at www.mishorelandstewards.org to find out.



UPLAND



BUFFER



LAKE

Elk River Chain of Lakes Greenbelt Initiative

Are you a lakefront property owner on the Elk River Chain of Lakes? Is your shoreline in need of a greenbelt boost or makeover? If so, the Watershed Council may be able to help!

Thanks to a grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the Watershed Council has funding to help eligible property owners install greenbelt projects. In 2017 and 2018, we will be overseeing the installation of ten residential shoreline projects. You could be one of the lucky recipients! For more information, contact Jen Buchanan, Watershed Projects Director at (231) 347-1181 x 112 or jen@watershedcouncil.org.



Funding Available
for eligible property owners
to install a greenbelt.

Rain Garden Project Update

A new "How To" guide, written and produced by the Watershed Council, is being released this summer thanks to a grant from the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation. The 16-page booklet was designed for homeowners who want step-by-step instructions on how to design and install a rain garden.

Additionally, funding from the grant will further our work to protect the water quality of Little Traverse Bay by installing 12 residential rain gardens and one public rain garden within the City of Petoskey. If you think you might have just the spot for a rain garden on your property and it is located within the city limits of Petoskey, let us know.

The Rain Garden Project is a cost/share program. Property owners are responsible for a portion of the project costs, but **the Watershed Council will help pay up to \$1500 per rain garden!** If you think this sounds like a great deal (*and it is!*) visit www.watershedcouncil.org for project and application information. You can also call or email Jen Buchanan, Watershed Projects Director at (231) 347-1181 x 112 or jen@watershedcouncil.org for more details.



Waganakising Bay Day
joins Festival on the Bay!
Saturday, August 19th

Celebrate Little Traverse Bay! 2017 Waganakising Bay Day is being held during Petoskey's 15th Annual Festival on the Bay this year. Join us on Saturday, August 19th from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm for a family-friendly water festival at Bayfront Park with hands-on activities for kids. Learn from Northern Michigan's environmental experts on wildlife, water quality, stewardship, and recreation. See a live sturgeon, create a fish flag, learn about the Little Traverse Bay Watershed, and celebrate our most precious resource – water! Crafts, demonstrations, and much more! Free admission. Public Welcome.

A schedule of events is being finalized and will be posted soon. Visit our webpage at <http://petoskeyfestival.com/waganakising-bay-day>

Proper packaging of medications for disposal

Thanks to all of our members and Northern Michigan residents, we have a highly successful Prescription and Over-the-Counter Drug Drop-off (POD) Program. The program is becoming so popular, we are experiencing capacity issues with medicine storage and disposal. You can help us resolve this by properly packaging the medication for disposal.

How best to package the medicine depends on whether you are using a POD collection event or a POD drop box.

Disposal Preparation for POD COLLECTION EVENTS

Keep the medications in the original container for easy identification of the medicine, but erase, black out, tape over, scratch off, or peel off all personal information from the prescription bottles. Do not remove the name of the medication as this is needed to properly sort and dispose of medications.



Disposal Preparation for POD DROP BOXES

Solid medicines, such as pills and vitamins, can be removed from the original container and mixed together into a sealed plastic bag. Scratch out all personal information on the prescription label of your empty pill bottle, then recycle the container with the lid on. Be sure liquids are well-sealed or in a plastic bag to prevent spills. Do not pour liquids directly into the POD Box. Please do not place sharps in the POD boxes as this poses a risk to law enforcement officers when they empty the boxes.



Proper disposal of medication promotes a healthy community. It helps keep our rivers and drinking water clean and our families safe. Help us keep the POD Program running efficiently by following these packaging instructions.

**Prevent misuse
AND protect
our waters.**



Put your pills in the POD!

DROP BOX LOCATIONS

Antrim County Sheriff's Office

107 Grove Street, Bellaire, MI 49615

Boyne City - City Hall

319 North Lake Street, Boyne City, MI 49712

Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office - Jail Entrance

1000 Grant Street, Charlevoix, MI 49720

Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office - Beaver Island Substation

37830 Kings Highway, Beaver Island, MI 49782

Cheboygan County Sheriff Department

870 S. Main Street, Cheboygan, MI 49721

Cheboygan Department of Public Safety - Cheboygan City Hall

403 N. Huron Street, Cheboygan, MI 49721

City of Charlevoix Police Department

210 State Street, Charlevoix, MI 49720

City of St. Ignace Police Department

396 N. State Street, St. Ignace, MI 49781

East Jordan Police Department

326 Main Street, East Jordan, MI 49727

Elk Rapids Police Department

321 Bridge Street, Elk Rapids, MI 49629

Emmet County Sheriff - Jeffery P. Bodzick Administrative Office and Correctional Facility (Jail Entrance)

450 Bay Street, Petoskey, MI 49770

Emmet County Sheriff -

Richard L. Zink Law Enforcement Center

3460 Harbor-Petoskey Road (M-119), Harbor Springs, MI 49740

Grand Traverse County Sheriff/ Traverse City Police Department

851 Woodmere Avenue, Traverse City, MI 49686

Harbor Springs Police Department

170 Zoll Street, Harbor Springs, MI 49740

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribal Police Department

911 Spring Street, Lower Level, Petoskey, MI 49770

Mackinac County Sheriff's Office

100 South Marley Street, St. Ignace, MI 49781

Mackinaw City Police Department - Village Hall

102 S. Huron Avenue, Mackinaw City, MI 49701

Petoskey Department of Public Safety - Front Lobby of City Hall

101 East Lake Street, Petoskey, MI 49770

Petoskey Department of Public Safety - Public Safety Station West (Bay Harbor)

3625 Charlevoix Avenue, Petoskey, MI 49770

Tuscarora Township Police Department

3546 Sturgeon Avenue, Indian River, MI 49749

Environmental Restoration using Zequanox

Zequanox, a promising bio-based control for invasive zebra and quagga mussels, was licensed in 2014. In 2016, the Watershed Council received Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding to conduct a pilot study to assess the product's potential for environmental restoration. The study will focus on rehabilitation of native mussel populations that have been all but extirpated by the zebra and quagga mussel invasion. The project will involve researchers from University of Michigan Biological Station, Michigan Natural Features Inventory, and U.S. Geological Survey. The project will take place in Round Lake, Emmet County, during late summer.

Bear River Cleanup

On August 20th, Watershed Council staff and many volunteers will take to the River to remove debris and trash. Visit www.watershedcouncil.org/bear-river-cleanup for details on how you can help.

Walloon Lake Spring Phosphorus Monitoring

Phosphorus is the limiting nutrient in many Northern Michigan lakes. Although naturally occurring and essential for aquatic life, excess phosphorus can lead to algal blooms, nuisance plant growth, and depleted dissolved oxygen. Human activities can lead to elevated inputs of phosphorus to lakes. Failing septic tanks, agricultural runoff, stormwater, and lawn fertilization can all contribute phosphorus to surface waters. To address this threat, the Walloon Lake Association has contracted with the Watershed Council to monitor total phosphorus in every basin of the Lake. This monitoring is now in its 20th year; continuing to ensure that changes are detected and addressed.

Elk-Skegemog Water Quality Monitoring

Monitoring supported by the Elk-Skegemog Lake Association will track water quality in both Lakes throughout 2017. Since 2000, monitoring has occurred four times per year to ensure changes are detected, but to date continues to document a baseline of high water quality.

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council Service

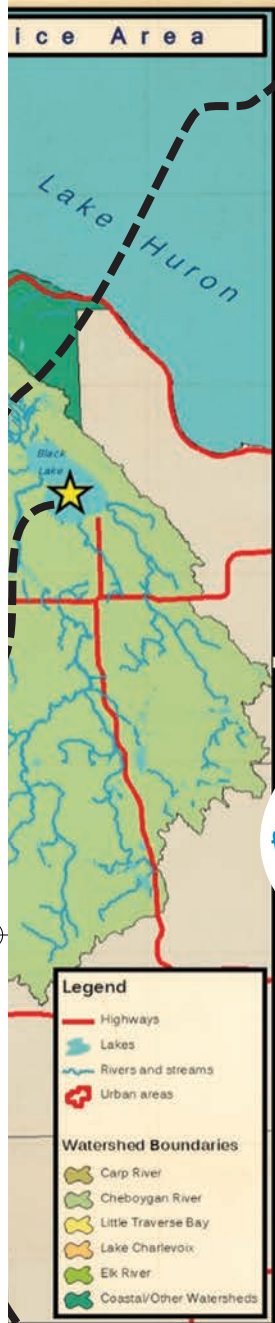


Elk River Chain of Lakes Shoreline Surveys

As part of a grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) shoreline surveys will be conducted for all lakes in the lower chain in 2017. The lakes in the upper chain were surveyed in 2016. Shoreline surveys quantify shoreline health related to riparian management practices. Greenbelts, erosion, alterations such as sea walls and rip-rap, and *Cladophora* algae (a nutrient pollution indicator) will all be quantified in these surveys. Results will be used to identify problem areas and educate shoreline property owners about lake-friendly practices.

Black Lake Shoreline Survey

Recent high-water levels and storms have resulted in shoreline erosion and property damage on many Northern Michigan lakes, including Black Lake. The Black Lake Association has contracted with the Watershed Council to conduct a shoreline survey of Black Lake. The survey will document greenbelt status, erosion, alterations such as sea walls and rip-rap, and *Cladophora* algae. Results will be used to prioritize best management practices for Black Lake, and for outreach and education of lake residents.



Biocontrol of Purple Loosestrife

During the summer of 2016, the invasive wetland plant, purple loosestrife, was documented in abundance in the Indian River Spreads on the south end of Mullett Lake. The Indian River Spreads is an ecologically diverse wetland that provides valuable habitat to wildlife, waterfowl, and aquatic organisms. It also provides water quality and flood retention benefits. These beneficial properties are threatened by invasive plants like purple loosestrife, which form dense monocultures, crowding out native species and even altering hydrology. The *Galerucella* beetle, a well-known biocontrol for purple loosestrife, will be released in the Spreads this summer. This project is made possible by funding from the Mullett Area Preservation Society and Petoskey Regional Audubon Society.

If you see us doing
field work in your area,
be sure to say
hello!



Jordan River Water Quality Monitoring

Watershed Council monitoring efforts, in conjunction with Friends of the Jordan River Watershed, will investigate ongoing and emerging issues related to water quality within the Jordan River and tributaries.

To learn more about the work of the Watershed Council, visit our website at www.watershedcouncil.org

Lake Words

— WORTH KNOWING —

Littoral Zone: The nearshore area of the lake where sunlight reaches the lake bottom and the water is shallow enough to allow aquatic plants to root.

Limnetic Zone: Well-lit, open surface waters in a lake, away from the shore. This part of the lake is too deep to allow aquatic plants to take root in the lake bottom.

Terrestrial Plants: A terrestrial plant is a plant that grows on, in, or from land.

Emergent Plants: Plants are rooted on bottom of lake, but plant leaves and stems extend out of water.

Submergent Plants: Plants that have most of their structures below water.

Floating-leaf Plants: Plants with floating leaves on the surface of the water.

Euphotic Zone: The uppermost part of the lake which is sufficiently illuminated to permit photosynthesis by phytoplankton and plants, is called the euphotic zone.

Benthic Zone: Lowest level/zone of the lake, referring to the bottom of the water body.

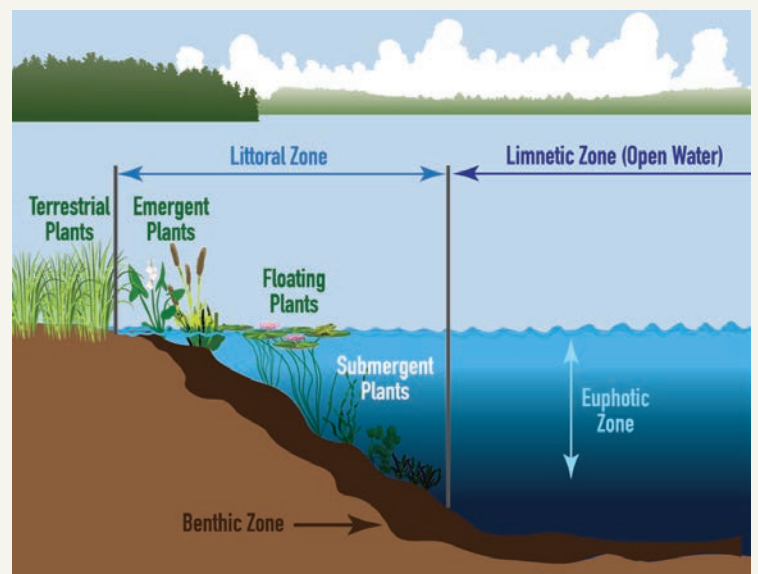


Illustration by Kristy Beyer, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

Youth Education Programs

Through contributions, partnerships, and grants, the Watershed Council provides a wide variety of educational experiences to help engage youth in protecting our lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, and groundwater. This spread highlights just a few examples of our current youth programs.

WATERSHED ACADEMY

Now in its third year, the Watershed Academy has grown to 12 schools and engages over 100 students per semester in the science and stewardship of their local watershed.



Summer is "intern season" around the Watershed Council and this year we are happy to welcome our 2017 Summer Intern Team. Enjoy their brief bios below.

ABIGAIL RICHMOND

Position: Watershed Protection Team Intern

School: Petoskey High School alum! New graduate of Grand Valley State University

Major: Natural Resource Management; minor in Biology and an emphasis in GIS

Hobbies: I love herpetology and own two geckos. I enjoy going on hikes, boating, and anything that involves being outdoors.

JAY DUTCHER

Position: Policy Team Intern

School: University of Michigan

Major: History; minor in Environment

Hobbies: I am an avid golfer and fly fisherman. I enjoy watching and arguing about sports, specifically college football.

HUNTER DAVIS

Position: Landscape Architecture Intern

School: Michigan State University

Double Major: Environmental Studies & Sustainability; Sustainable Parks, Recreation, & Tourism

Hobbies: I love playing tennis and enjoy traveling, drawing, and reading.

JULIA COLASANTI

Position: Watershed Protection Team Intern

School: Saint Michael's College in Vermont

Double Major: Environmental Science; Journalism

Hobbies: I enjoy playing volleyball, snowboarding, and doing standup comedy.

MICHAEL HINKLE

Position: Watershed Protection Team Intern

School: Grand Valley State University

Major: Natural Resource Management

Hobbies: I play a lot of instruments including banjo, guitar, and dulcimer.



STUDENTS EXPERIENCE LAKE CHARLEVOIX

This past May marked the 24th year of providing 6th and 7th grade students a hands-on opportunity to learn about the Lake Charlevoix Watershed. Nearly 300 students attended this year's event. This program is made possible through a partnership with the Lake Charlevoix Association and the Beaver Island Boat Company.

During this half-day program, students learn about:

- Benthic Organisms
- Water Chemistry
- Secchi Disc Monitoring
- Coast Guard Safety
- Watershed Model
- Groundwater Model
- Invasive Species



RAVEN HILL – NONTRADITIONAL MATH AND SCIENCE CAREER EXPO

A fun career day for middle school students is hosted each year at Raven Hill Discovery Center. Jennifer Buchanan teaches the students about water quality monitoring and more during this unique hands-on event.

Don't miss these upcoming youth-friendly events

Waganakising Bay Day

See page 6 for complete details.

Bear River Cleanup

See page 13 for complete details.



WE WOULDN'T BE AS EFFECTIVE WITHOUT VOLUNTEERS

With over 3000 miles of rivers and streams and 1600 lakes to look after, our organization relies heavily on volunteers to ensure our waters remain healthy. From an accounting perspective, based solely on 2016 volunteer hours, **we were able to leverage thousands of dollars in grant funding** to continue our important programs.



577

Volunteer Stream
Monitoring Hours

Value = Over \$13,000



1,104

Volunteer Lake
Monitoring Hours

Value = Over \$25,000



1,283

Summer Internship
Volunteer Hours

Value = Over \$29,000



392

Bear River Cleanup
Volunteer Hours

Value = Over \$9,000

*Value amount based on standard
volunteer dollar value for 2016.

The Value of a Volunteer

When thinking about volunteering, a variety of tasks, groups, and causes come to mind. Your time spent volunteering ensures that groups and causes continue to make a positive impact in our world.

Environmental and conservation organizations depend upon volunteers and donations to sustain their operations. Northern Michigan hosts a number of environmental nonprofits. The area's plentiful natural resources, along with lower-density development, has left miles of high-quality streams and lakes and acres of forests and wetlands. It is our region's reputation, and the reason why many Michiganders speak fondly of going "Up North."

Volunteers play
an enormous
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protection of
our water
resources...

At the center of that regional persona lie our water bodies – lakes, rivers, and streams that provide hours of enjoyment for residents and visitors alike. With over 3000 miles of rivers and streams and 1600 lakes to look after, how can any organization ensure that our water resources remain healthy? That's where you, the volunteer, comes in.

Volunteers play an enormous role in the protection of our water resources in Northern Michigan. Every year the Watershed Council recruits, trains, and deploys over 200 volunteers to lakes, streams, and beaches across Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, and Emmet Counties. These volunteers measure water quality in ways ranging

from sampling lake water for chlorophyll content (an indicator of algae concentrations) to collecting aquatic macroinvertebrates (stream insects that serve as indicators of river health). Continual data collection on many water bodies ensures that water quality problems don't go undetected. Solutions to water quality problems are often implemented with grant dollars, which are obtained using volunteer-collected data to demonstrate and quantify the problem.

Volunteers contributing to these programs are citizen scientists, adding to a large stewardship effort that would otherwise be cost prohibitive. For all of their hard work, volunteers are rewarded through learning, building new relationships, and the knowledge that their efforts play a critical role in protecting water quality. Furthermore, long-term volunteers report experiencing a deeper connection to our lakes, rivers, and streams. For our lake monitors, taking a few minutes each week to observe and measure water clarity and temperature puts them in touch with seasonal cycles and more long-term changes within their lake. Stream monitors become familiar with aquatic life cycles, such as the timing of fish runs and mayfly hatches, and even changes within the channel itself as the stream meanders and finds new paths.

Take a new approach to volunteering this summer! Get outside and immerse yourself in a stewardship experience. Find new places and meet new people. A renewed perspective on the beauty and wonder of our natural resources awaits! For more information on upcoming volunteer opportunities, contact the Watershed Council at 231-347-1181 or go to www.watershedcouncil.org.

**Volunteer Stream monitors
at the Minnehaha Creek.**



HEALING THE BEAR**2017 BEAR RIVER CLEANUP****Please Join Us!****Sunday, August 20th****12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.****Bear River Shelter, Petoskey***(Quaintance Ave. entrance across from City Hall)*

"Healing the Bear" Bear River Cleanup

This year will mark the 13th "Healing the Bear" Bear River Cleanup and you're invited! Volunteers of all ages and abilities are needed to walk, wade, or canoe the River as they pick up trash and debris from its surrounding area. Last year, 88 volunteers braved the rain to clean up roughly five river miles, including five road crossings. Approximately 8.5 cubic yards of trash were collected! Small pieces of litter filled 14 trash bags and an additional large trailer was filled with heavier items, such as metal, pallets, and 50-gallon drums. Each year it seems like we have cleaned every piece of trash from the River, and yet every year there seems to be another pile!

Interested in helping the cause, but can't attend the cleanup? Become a sponsor! Any help is appreciated to make this another successful year for the Bear River Cleanup!

Free t-shirt and light meal for all pre-registered volunteers! To register or sponsor this event, call Kate at (231) 347-1181 or visit www.watershedcouncil.org and click "Bear River Cleanup."



All Hands On Deck

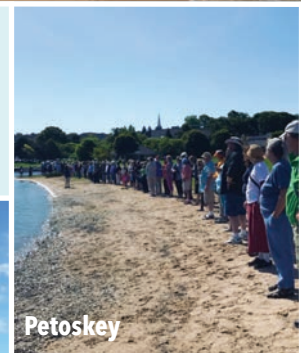
On July 3, 2017 at 10 a.m. events were held across the Great Lakes shores to raise awareness of the need to protect the Great Lakes we all love.

All Hands on Deck is an event to build support for legislation, regulations, and funding based on unbiased science to sustain the health of the world's largest accessible freshwater resource. This event provided a way to celebrate our waters.

Launched on March 2, 2017 by Kimberly Simon of Charlevoix, Michigan, the idea was prompted by the announcement of proposed funding cuts that would eliminate the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The event has evolved to reflect ongoing water issues centered around the desire for water policy to be based on unbiased science. The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council was an early supporter of the All Hands on Deck event and helped promote participation in local events in Petoskey, Cross Village, Sturgeon Bay, and Mackinaw City.

"Sites may differ by community but on beaches or boardwalks or any other places, the intention is the same everywhere: to bring people together in an expression of unified concern about something we all can agree on," Simon said. "We all want to care for our Great Lakes. They're facing so many threats – invasive species, pipeline leaks, waste disposal and many other types of pollution, diversion, erosion, possible funding cuts for research and maintenance programs and staff – the list goes on and on. Whether people are residents of the Great Lakes Basin, or business owners, leaders and policymakers, visitors or vacationers, everyone has a stake in sustaining the vitality of our Great Lakes."

More information about this event can be found at www.allhandsondeckgreatlakes.org

**Cross Village****Petoskey****Mackinaw City**

Planned Giving Opportunities

Many years ago, the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council established an endowment fund to ensure the long term financial well-being of the organization. Currently, we have endowed funds at both the Charlevoix County Community Foundation and the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation. Over the next few years the Watershed Council plans to increase the assets held in these endowed funds to provide much needed revenue in uncertain times.

Giving back is a way to make a difference in the lives of people and causes we love. Your legacy can live forever in a gift that will support the causes you love far beyond our lifetimes. A gift to the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council endowment fund is one way to leave a legacy.

How to leave a legacy with a gift now:

- **Gifts of cash:** A cash gift is the easiest to give. Your donation is deductible as a charitable gift for federal tax purposes.
- **Gifts of securities:** Contributions of appreciated securities are attractive to people who have held stocks or bonds for a long period of time.
- **Gifts of retirement assets:** Support your charitable interests while achieving significant tax advantages by directing your required minimum distribution from retirement assets to the Watershed Council.

How to give a planned gift that protects water into the future:

- A bequest, or naming the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council in your will or living trust, is simple. A charitable bequest can be a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or what remains after other bequests – including those to family members – are made. Or, your trust can specify that your heirs receive lifetime income, with the remainder going to the Watershed Council for charitable purposes.
- Retirement assets may be used to support your charitable interests while achieving significant tax advantages for your heirs.
- Life insurance can be used as a charitable asset when you name the Watershed Council as a beneficiary of your policy (or a portion), or purchase a new policy to benefit us.

Whether to utilize any of these vehicles, and if so, which ones, depends greatly upon your own individual financial and tax situation. You should therefore discuss these options with your professional advisors to determine the best approach for you.

We hope you'll join us in supporting the important work of the Watershed Council by considering a charitable contribution to our endowment fund today.

Please contact Gail Gruenwald at 231-347-1181 to learn more about these giving opportunities.

A Little Extra Adds Up

The Watershed Council offers numerous ways for you to give a little extra to help protect our water resources. Here are a few easy ways to donate that can help you do more:

Family Fare and D&W Receipts



Direct Your Dollars is a receipt-based program, meaning that we can raise money simply by doing something we all do each week – go to the grocery store. Every time you shop at your local Family Fare and D&W store, save your receipts and encourage your friends and family to do the same. Then just drop them off at the Watershed Council office. Once we've collected \$150,000 in receipts, we can turn those slips of paper into a \$1,000 check!



Amazon Smile

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support our programs every time you shop online, at no cost to you. When you shop at www.smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the Watershed Council.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile, www.smile.amazon.com, you need to select "Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council" as the organization to receive donations before you begin shopping. After that, every time you use smile.amazon.com every eligible purchase you make will result in a donation. It's that easy.



Percent of Sales Fundraising Events

In May, City Park Grill in Petoskey hosted a fundraiser night on our behalf. They gifted 20% of all dinner sales to the Watershed Council which resulted in a generous donation. Watch for future "percent of sales" fundraisers with local businesses coming soon.

While the Watershed Council primarily relies on annual donations and memberships, these smaller donations, made by doing things you do every day, can add up when our family and friends participate with us. Help spread the word about these ways to give.

If your business would like to support the Watershed Council and protect our lakes, rivers, and streams by hosting a fundraiser or offering an incentive to donate, please contact Kate Cwikiel at 231-347-1181.

Thank you

Habitat Landscapes for assisting with maintenance of landscape at our office.

Dr. Linda Greer, Interim Director University of Michigan Biological Station for speaking at our 12th annual Lake Association Summit.

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

Johan's Bakery for donating donuts for both our volunteer lake and stream monitoring training sessions.

Jet's Pizza of Petoskey for donating pizza for our volunteer stream monitoring training.

Charlie MacDonald for all of his hard work and dedication as our policy intern.

24th Annual **Students Experience Lake Charlevoix** volunteers:

Beaver Island Boat Company	Chris Heroy	Ed and Diane Strzelinski
Michael Buttigieg	Caroline Keson	U.S. Coast Guard
Bill Chase	Larry Levensgood	Station Charlevoix
Dave Clapp	Ashley McElmurry	Joel VanRoekel
Lauren Dey	Tim McQueer	Paul Weston
Suzie Dickow	and Justin	Hap Wright
Audrey Etienne	Dan Mishler	
	Sheryl Pursel	

Spring 2017 **Watershed Academy** Volunteers:

Gary Chenowith	Doug Fuller	Caroline Keson	Ed Strzelinski
David Cummings	Matt Haberkorn	Bob Kingon	Greg Walz
Lauren Day	Dave Irish	Sarah Mayhew	
Jeff Dykehouse	Adam Kennedy	Christine Steensma	

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Train to be a Volunteer Stream Monitor Saturday, September 16, 2017

Calling all citizen scientists! Come learn about the various aspects of our stream monitoring program, general macroinvertebrate biology, and the equipment used to collect important data about the health of our local streams. You will also learn about aquatic invasive species. A hands-on practicum on the Bear River is included so that volunteers can "get their feet wet" before going into the field.

Training Day September 16, 2017

Field Day September 23, 2017

Indoor ID Day October 1, 2017



Adult Damselfly

Making an impact beyond her lifetime

Last fall, Tip of the Mitt Watershed learned that Virginia Durand, a long-time member, bequeathed her two cottages and their contents to our organization with the understanding they would be sold and the proceeds would benefit our organization.

Since then, staff and volunteers have worked to clean, sort, and prepare for an auction that was held on June 17. Over 40 people attended the auction in Topinabee on Mullett Lake. While most of the furniture, collectibles, and artwork found new homes, the cottages remain for sale. An older four-bedroom cottage, which had been in her family since the early 1900s, and the newer log-style home, built in the early 2000s, sit side by side on Beason St. Virginia spent her later years in the newer home given its more modern amenities. In contrast, the larger family cottage harkens back to the days when time spent "Up North" meant long hours on the covered porch and cozy evenings around the fieldstone fireplace.

We are honored that Virginia left us her beloved homes and many of her precious belongings. We thank those who attended the auction and, perhaps, left with an item or two that will now become treasured items of your own. For those who may have

interest in the cottages themselves, they are listed with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, agent Paula A. Hocquard of Indian River, 231-238-7400. We hope the new owners of these special homes will continue to cherish them and create their own memories, just as Virginia did during her long life spent in Topinabee.



FOR SALE: 2 homes plus a 25' Mullett Lake lot. Thanks to Ms. Durand's generosity, proceeds of the sale will support the Watershed Council.

WATERSHED COUNCIL SWAG

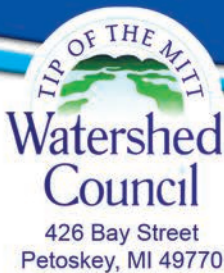
We recently partnered with Carter's Imagewear to offer you a unique way to show your support for Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. Items sporting the Watershed Council logo can now be purchased directly through our website. Simply look for the "Shop Online" button on our homepage at www.watershedcouncil.org.

- Sweatshirts
- T-shirts
- Vests
- Bags
- Etched Glassware
- and more!

Wearables and bags have a high quality embroidered logo!

A portion of every purchase is donated to the Watershed Council.

Go to our homepage and click on "Shop Online"
www.watershedcouncil.org



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This newsletter contains information worth sharing. When you're done reading it, don't throw it out. **Pass it on!**



Painted Land: In search of the Group of Seven

Don't miss this
AWARD-WINNING FILM

The Bay View Association, Crooked Tree Arts Center, North Central Michigan College, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, and Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy have teamed up to bring *Painted Land: In Search of the Group of Seven* to Petoskey. Join us on Saturday, July 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the John M. Hall Auditorium in Bay View.

This award-winning film has significant cultural, educational, and environmental undertones as it explores the world-famous Group of Seven painters and the locations they painted around Lake Superior. The film will be introduced in person by renowned writers, photographers, and adventurers Gary and Joanie McGuffin. After the film, the audience will be invited to an afterglow and have the opportunity to meet Gary and Joanie, as well as explore booths from the coordinating organizations.

**Saturday,
July 22**
Bay View, MI

TICKETS

General admission seating is available for \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. To purchase tickets, call (888) 596-1027, visit the Bay View Box Office, or purchase tickets online at www.bayviewassociation.org.

Line 5 information at your fingertips!

Text **LINE5** to
22828 to get started.

Message and data rates may apply.

