

LEFT BACK ROW: Jennifer DeMoss, Kevin Christman, Molly Voorheis, Jennifer McKay, Jennifer Buchanan, Ann McGlashen (2022 Policy and Advocacy Intern), Debbie Espisito, Kacey Cook, Caroline Keson LEFT CENTER ROW: Eli Baker, Katie Wolf, Natalie Walts, Lauren Dey Noah Jansen LEFT FRONT ROW: Alberto Della Torre (2022 Policy and Advocacy Intern) 2022 INTERNS NOT PICTURED: Kory Alaniz, Logan Banning, Sophie Goodnough, Evan Joneson.

WATERSHED COUNCIL STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Katie Wolf

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Kevin Christman Finance Manager Molly Voorheis Business Manager Natalie Walts Office Manager

POLICY AND ADVOCACY TEAM

Jennifer McKay
Policy Director
Kacey Cook
Policy Specialist and
Staff Attorney

EDUCATION TEAM

Eli Baker, Water Resources Education Coordinator Hannah Snyder Seasonal Mobile Boat Washing Employee

WATERSHED PROTECTION TEAM

Jennifer Buchanan
Associate Director
Caroline Keson
Monitoring Programs Coordinator
Lauren Dey
Watershed Management
Coordinator
Noah Jansen
Restoration Coordinator
Kory Alaniz
Monitoring Programs Assistant

COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Jen DeMoss
Communications Director
Debbie Esposito
Membership and
Development Coordinator
Kate Cwikiel
Communications and
Development Specialist

2021 INTERNS

Sophie Goodnough
Western Michigan University
Evan Joneson
University of Michigan



TRIBUTARIES—They feed Northern Michigan's inland lakes and vast inland oceans. A tributary can be a tiny spring gushing from a hillside to feed into a shallow stream. It can be a powerful river snaking through a landscape, slowed only by winter's ice. Large or small, tributaries all perform the same function—they re-energize the larger bodies of water they feed into, contributing to a greater whole.

Our members are a lot like tributaries. No single person or institution can make possible our programs to protect water quality and engage the public. It takes our generous donors, funders, public officials, schools, staff, volunteers, interns, partners, and so many others to keep this organization going. No matter the size, each contribution keeps our region's most precious resource safe and healthy.

This Annual Report is a tribute to our waters and all those who celebrate them every single day by caring for them. Your dedication to our lakes, rivers, streams, groundwater, and wetlands ripples out to benefit your entire community. Thank you for protecting what you love!

From our Executive Director



INDIVIDUALLY, WE ARE ONE DROP. TOGETHER, WE ARE AN OCEAN.

-Ryunosuke Saturo, Japanese Poet

Dear Watershed Council Members and Friends,

Reflecting on 2021's watershed moments, the most significant was the culmination of former Executive Director Gail Gruenwald's 37-year career. Her legacy of establishing the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council as a trusted, well-respected voice for Northern Michigan's waters sets a high standard of excellence for all who follow.

As you read through this annual report, I hope you feel as inspired as I do to ensure the vital water protection efforts that Gail set into motion continue to thrive. Sustaining and growing the Watershed Council's team of dedicated board leaders, members, staff, volunteers, community partners, and future stewards will require a tremendous amount of continued collaboration, persistence, and resourcefulness.

As your new executive director, I am eager to work with you and your community to create the next chapter of the Watershed Council's legacy. The challenges and opportunities are many—with your collective support, our potential is boundless!

Most sincerely,

Katie Wolf

Executive Director & Chief Officer of Operations

INTERNSHIP FUND

ick Brandi and Maureen Radke had been living in a small, lakeless town between Lansing and Flint. They wanted to head out of the city before getting entrenched in downstate life. In 1981, Radke found a job in Petoskey and they jumped at the chance to live in Northern Michigan. Rick followed her north in 1982 when he found employment in Indian River. What was the first organization they joined after their move? Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council.

"I promised myself I'd touch the water every day if I had the opportunity," said Brandi about the move. "Clean water is important to me, and that fact is reinforced by the Watershed Council's work."

The couple became enmeshed in the Watershed Council community. They volunteered to do water quality monitoring on Douglas Lake for the annual Lake Expo, and reported that it was a "blast." They became friends with then Executive Director Gail Gruenwald and former Policy Director Wil Cwikiel, and the families' kids grew up together.

Radke served as a board member and worked as the staff planner in the 1990s, writing changes to zoning ordinances and conservation planning for communities. "I worked shoulder to shoulder with Watershed Council staff for my 35 years as a professional," said Radke, who has also worked as a planner for Emmet County Planning and Zoning and as a grantmaker for the Charlevoix County Community Foundation. "What I really like is how well the Council works with a variety of community groups to achieve common goals and to protect our waterways."

Brandi also did his part to influence decisions about water in his career. He just completed serving two three-year terms as Treasurer for the Watershed Council's Board of Directors. While working for the City of Charlevoix as the financial manager, he learned of a Michigan Department of Natural Resources review of a parcel at Ferry Beach Park and became involved in preserving its wetlands

from development. He also supported green stormwater infrastructure to prevent the discharge of pollutants into the Little Traverse Bay, and the cleanup of underground storage tanks at Ferry Beach.

In 2015, Radke and Brandi experienced a terrible tragedy when their daughter, Maura Brandi, passed away. Maura was a sophomore at Michigan State University studying landscape architecture. It was a great loss for the Watershed Council family. To honor their daughter, her family founded the Maura Brandi MSU Internship Fund with the Charlevoix County Community Foundation. It now yields funding to help cover housing and pay for interns, a vital part of the Watershed Council's summer water quality monitoring and public policy efforts.

"When Maura was on this earth, she really loved the water and she loved living in this area," said Radke. When she passed, she was in the same stage in life as the Watershed Council's interns. The internship fund is meant to help students financially, as well as offer them a valuable career experience/ resume builder at the Watershed Council. However, the fund also serves the family in another way. "To me, the fund keeps Maura's spirit alive and demonstrates her love for Northern Michigan waters because it will always be here. Her presence is still with us."

Radke's and Brandi's generosity in starting the internship fund has continued to help the Watershed Council better serve the region. Each year, our interns collect water quality data, help train volunteers, work in our mobile boat washing and education programs, review permits and conduct public policy research, organize and enter data, staff public meetings and events, and so much more. We are proud to provide real-life work experiences for interns to build their careers while ensuring the protection of our lakes, streams, wetlands, and groundwater.

Brandi said it best: "With the Watershed Council, the future is in good hands."

WE RAISED 184 GIFTS FOR A TOTAL OF \$34,320.00 LAST YEAR FOR THE INTERNSHIP FUND.









A special TRIBUTE

Gail Gruenwald's retirement in December 2021, marks a significant milestone in the history of the Tip of the Mitt. Joining the Watershed Council in 1984 as staff attorney and then taking the helm as executive director in 1987, Gail will always be remembered as an outstanding champion of Northern Michigan's fresh waters. Over her 37 years with the Watershed Council, she built the organization into a highly respected, influential force for environmental protection throughout the Great Lakes.

In her own words, Gail graciously wrapped up her last year with the Watershed Council as follows:

"Our efforts this past year and throughout our history have focused on what each of us can do to protect our waters. The Watershed Council will continue to work tirelessly toward this end as we celebrate our 43rd anniversary in 2022. I will participate in this wonderful work for many years to come. Please join us! Together, we can protect our resources for the good of our community today and for future generations."

Thank you, Gail, for your excellent stewardship and vision on behalf of the Watershed Council and Northern Michigan's precious waters!

A LEGACY OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT THE IRISH FAMILY



"I think that, in the years since the Watershed Council began, we've all become more and more aware of threats to our lakes, and not all our problems are big, obvious ones," added Sue. "It's the subtle pressure we put on the resource that is meaningful, and the Watershed Council is there to make sure that degradation doesn't happen."

ave Irish moved to Harbor Springs in a boat. According to his daughter, Sue Stewart, his family sailed into the Little Traverse Bay one afternoon and thought, 'This is nice.' They were docked at Harbor Springs for some days before a local asked if they wanted to enroll their kids in school. They said yes, and the Irish family legacy in Harbor Springs was born. That legacy has extended to the family's involvement with Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council through the decades.

"Dad was always a vocal supporter of Gail Gruenwald [the recently retired Watershed Council executive director] and the Watershed Council," said Sue as she sat down with her sister, Perry Hodgson, to chat about the family's environmental legacy. Dave Irish passed away in November 2020, and his family has carried on with his concern for the health of Northern Michigan's waters. The two described how Dave's environmental work evolved over the years.

His first foray into environmentalism was with a large development planned north of Harbor Springs, which Dave discovered was not providing for wastewater treatment. His interests coincided with new environmental legislation in the form of the Clean Air and Water Acts, as well as a burgeoning environmental movement. After suing to put the brakes on the development, he and other supporters founded the Little Traverse Conservancy in 1972.

"As more people started moving to Petoskey, the environmental movement brought a new class of professionals who were experts in ecological systems and how to care for them," said Sue, "and Gail was one of those people. For Dad, supporting the Watershed Council was natural because he always cared about scientific issues that affected people and our shared resources up here."

Perry remembered asking her father why the Watershed Council was a necessary force for environmental good when other organizations already existed in the region. "I think Dad valued the Watershed Council's approach and the focus on policy," said Perry.

The Irish family has continued to care for our region's most precious resource through their support of the Watershed Council. Perry is the chair of Charlevoix's Shade Tree and Park's Commission, and a past board member of the Charlevoix's Children's House and Friends of the Charlevoix Public Library. She was just elected as a new Watershed Council board member on July 18. 2022. As a former trustee for the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, Perry reviewed the foundation's grant requests. "During that time, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council always stood out—so easy to give a yes to their requests. The projects were always worthy, very strategic and science-based, and essential to our community. This is definitely not the case with many grant requests. It was readily apparent that the Watershed Council was well-run and doing important work."

Sue, who is the Irish Boat Shop chairwoman of the board of directors, along with boat shop president Michael Esposito, is also carrying on the tradition of supporting the Watershed Council. For years, Irish Boat Shop has hosted our annual Whale of a Sale fundraiser. Michael, a former Watershed Council board president, generously offers his time to help organize the event. Additionally, numerous Irish family members are also Watershed Council members.

"When I see Watershed Council staff doing survey work and putting in rain gardens, it's important to me," said Perry. "I'm interested in everything that impacts our ability to enjoy the water."

"I think that, in the years since the Watershed Council began, we've all become more and more aware of threats to our lakes, and not all our problems are big, obvious ones," added Sue. "It's the subtle pressure we put on the resource that is meaningful, and the Watershed Council is there to make sure that degradation doesn't happen."

We are more than grateful for the generous support of the Irish family over the decades. We hope to share their love for our waters for many more years to come.

STAFF IN ACTION:

WATERSHED PROTECTION



The Watershed Protection
Team, from left: Associate
Director Jen Buchanan,
Watershed Management
Coordinator Lauren Dey,
Monitoring Programs
Coordinator Caroline
Keson, and Restoration
Coodinator Noah Jansen

- Received \$324,172.63 from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust for "Increasing Urban Shore-Based Fishing Access in the Cheboygan River: Construction Phase."
- Received a \$153,938 grant from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy for "Promoting the High-Quality Water Resources in the Burt Lake Watershed."
- Received \$101,374.15 from the Natural Fish and Wildlife Foundation Sustain Our Great Lakes Program for "Improving Aquatic Connectivity within the Crooked River Watershed (MI)" to replace two road/ stream crossings.
- Received a \$22,600 Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation grant from the Little Traverse Bay

- Protection and Restoration Fund for green stormwater infrastructure planning in Petoskey.
- Received a combined total of \$20,000 from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation and the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation for a "new-to-us" truck for our fieldwork.
- Received \$2,000 from the Michigan State University Clean Water Corps for volunteer stream monitoring.
- Co-hosted a compost giveaway with Emmet County Recycling as part of "Partners in Protection: Implementing Priority Projects in the Little Traverse Bay Watershed" funded by the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation's Little Traverse Bay Protection and Restoration Fund.



STAFF IN ACTION: EDUCATION

- Taught in nine Northern Michigan schools in 2021, reaching 160 students.
- Received a \$56,920 Great Lakes Fishery Trust grant for "Fostering the Next Generation of Great Lakes Stewards" for our Watershed Academy programs.
- Received a \$2,000 Great Lakes Energy People Fund Grant for Watershed Academy.

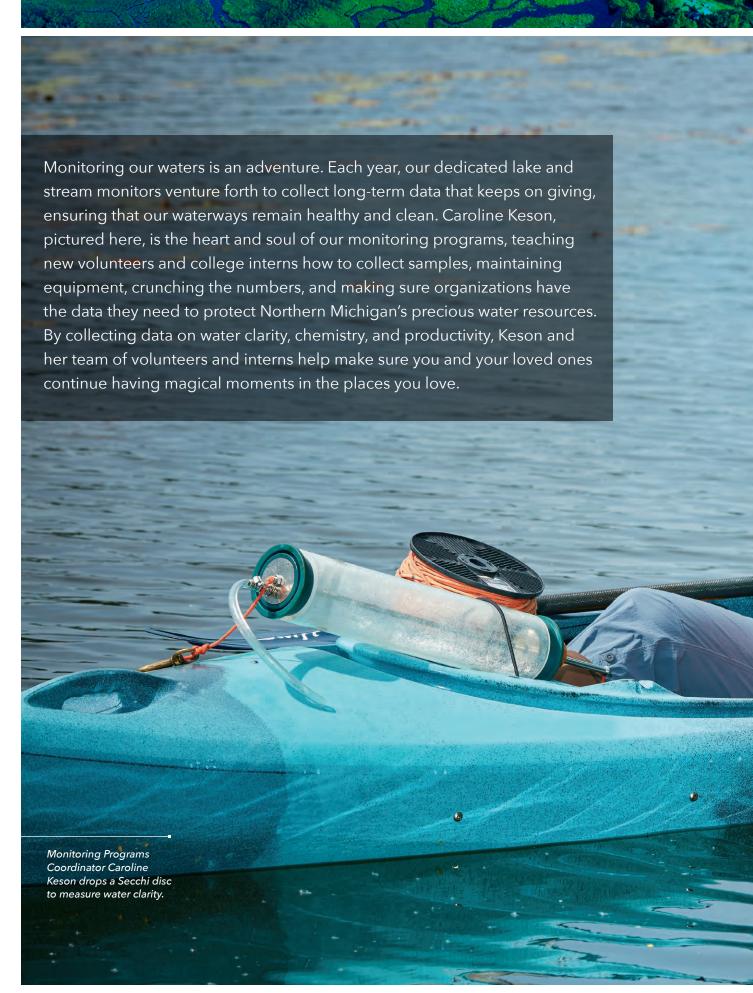




Education Team:

Education Coordinator Eli Baker teaches area youth about invasive species such as the Rusty Crayfish.

LAKE & STREAM MONITORING





STAFF IN ACTION:

ADMINISTRATION, COMMUNICAT AND DEVELOPMENT

Our Administrative Team isn't flashy. They're rarely in front of the cameras. They work behind the scenes to keep the Watershed Council afloat and our members informed.

The biggest piece of news from admin in 2021: our executive director of 37 years, Gail Gruenwald, retired. She's living the dream life between Beaver Island and the mainland, spending more time with family and friends. We celebrated her long and productive career last fall at Pond Hill Farm, with friends, members, a few of the original founders of the Watershed Council, community supporters, staff, and family. She was also inducted into the Michigan Environmental Hall of Fame last year. We're grateful for her years of service steering the organization towards success in protecting our waters.

The rest of the team, along with aid from other staff, were able to support the Watershed Council's mission in a variety of ways. They collected \$9,790 during our annual Whale of a Sale, a used boat sale to benefit our work. They worked to connect people to local watersheds through the Clean Waters Challenge, a river, stream, and beach cleanup event sponsored by Bearcub Outfitters. They also received \$5,854 in donations from supporting Northern Michigan business through the nonprofit Pour for More.

Administrative staff managed an annual budget of \$1,340,295, raised \$603,646 in donations, and recruited and sustained 2,224 members. They also helped manage 11 grants for a total of \$802,265 in grant funding.

The Administrative Team works hard for our waters; here's a huge thanks to all they contribute!



TIONS



A special TRIBUTE



Michael Esposito, long-time Watershed Council supporter and Irish Boat Shop president

Michael Esposito has been part of the Watershed Council for many years as a board member, then board president, and finally as a dedicated volunteer. In fact, his whole family has participated in our organization in some shape or form. His wife, Debbie, is our membership and development coordinator. Their daughter, Elena, took part in our Watershed Academy when she was in high school; their daughter, Tia, has helped us manage our database as a volunteer.

Aside from one year as a ski bum in Colorado, Esposito has spent his entire life around water, from the Rhode Island coast to Michigan. "I make my livelihood through clean water," he said. "And aside from the recreation that people enjoy, we're all dependent on this water as the most important asset in our area."

Esposito first learned about the Watershed Council through the Gruenwald/Cwikiel family, whose kids went to school with Elena and Tia. When long-time supporter David Crouse held a fundraiser for the council's Boston Whaler, Esposito helped us secure the boat at a nonprofit rate and has overseen its maintenance ever since.

As a board member, our annual Whale of a Sale was Esposito's pet project. Before Watershed Council staff took over, the sale was a one-man show, with Esposito arranging pickup of sale items and storage. A decade later, that event has continued to benefit the Watershed Council, with almost \$10,000 in boat sales last year.

He also displayed a wealth of foresight in maintaining the Watershed Council's infrastructure. Esposito was on the board's investment committee and realized that the council had recently purchased a building, but had no funds for its upkeep. He pushed for the creation of our still-thriving fund for capital improvements to ensure the protection of our Bay Street headquarters.

We are fortunate to be able to make this tribute to Michael Esposito and his family. They've been an integral part of keeping our organization financially healthy. Thank you for your dedication to our waters and our way of life.

WATERSHED ACADEMY & EDUCATION PROGRAMS





STAFF IN ACTION:

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Policy Team, from left: Intern Alberto Della Torre, Policy Specialist Kacey Cook, Policy Director Jennifer McKay, and intern Anna McGlashen.



- Collected more than 6,400 pounds of prescription and over-the-counter medications through our Point of Dispensing (POD) program, keeping them out of our waterways.
- Participated in Great Lakes Week and Clean Water Lobby Days, meeting with members of Congress to advocate for clean water priorities for the Great Lakes.
- Submitted testimony before the Michigan State Legislature and succeeded in obtaining an environmental impact survey from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Enbridge Great Lakes Tunnel Project.
- Received \$3,000 from the Dole Family Foundation and \$26,500 from an anonymous donor to address septic ordinances in Northern Michigan.
- Developed four publications to share information with landowners, realtors, and local officials on proper septic maintenance and to advocate for local septic ordinances.
- Developed a universal septic system presentation to share with planning commissions and government boards.

TIP OF THE MITT WATERSHEDS BY THE NUMBERS

CARP RIVER WATERSHED

- **50%** of the watershed is wetlands
- Home to the endangered Hungerford's crawling water beetle
- Though only 10.5 miles long, the Carp River boasts 15 fish species

LAKE HURON DIRECT

- 2nd largest Great Lake
- World's 4th largest lake
- 3,827 miles of shoreline
- Volume = 850 cubic miles
- Has 30,000 of the Great Lakes' 35,000 islands

LAKE MICHIGAN DIRECT

- 3rd largest Great Lake
- **5th largest** fresh water in the world
- 1,638 miles of shoreline
- Volume = 1,180 cubic miles
- World's largest fresh water dune system

LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY

- 4th largest bay, behind Green Bay, Grand Traverse Bay, and Bay DeNoc
- 174 square miles of water
- 45 square miles of diverse tributaries

CHEBOYGAN RIVER

- 900,000-acre watershed
- Includes **3** of Michigan's **10 biggest** inland lakes
- Home to large population of Lake Sturgeon

ELK RIVER

- 500+ square miles
- Largest sub-watershed of Grand Traverse Bay
- Home to the famous
 Chain of Lakes, 55 miles
 of connected lakes
 and streams

LAKE CHARLEVOIX

- Surface area of 17,200+ acres
- 3rd largest lake in Michigan
- Collects water from a
 214,400-acre Watershed

WATERSHED PROTECTION





BOARD OF DIRECTORS





Dear Friends,

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and its membership have had another extraordinary year! We gave tribute to our retiring, long-time executive director, Gail Gruenwald, honoring her by building the Maura Brandi MSU Internship Fund held at the Charlevoix County Community Foundation. As we evolve into a new generation of leadership, we welcome Katie Wolf into the executive director role. She has already met many of you and is further developing Watershed Council partnerships across our service area. Please join us at our many upcoming events and meet Katie and her terrific staff. The Watershed Council continues to have tremendous and constructive impact on the protection of our water resources, all made possible by your support.

Thank you,

Clavie Kasmussen

Claire Rasmussen President, Board of Directors



Tribute to Our Outgoing Leaders

Although **HERM BOATIN** is leaving the Watershed Council's Board of Directors, he'll be sticking around the community he's served. Boatin was a board member for six years, totaling two terms, and he and his wife, Darlene, have been volunteer stream monitors for about eight years. His new role will be supporting the Watershed Council's Education Team. He's excited to go out into the field and into the classroom with Water Resources Education Coordinator Eli Baker. As someone with years of experience in aquatic ecosystems as a biology teacher, he'll be a natural fit. Thank you, Herm, for your dedication to our organization and shared freshwater resources!

RICK BRANDI has been a long-time supporter of the Watershed Council. He and his wife, Maureen Radke, have volunteered with the organization since the 1980s. Radke also worked for the Watershed Council and served on the board in the past. Brandi has recently stepped down from his position as the board treasurer after two three-year consecutive terms. You can read more about Brandi's and Radke's support of the Watershed Council interns through their Maura Brandi MSU Internship Fund on pages 2-3 of this annual report.

We will also miss **KEN POLAKOWSKI**, who has moved away from the region to spend more time with family. Unfortunately for Polakowski, he joined the Watershed Council right as the pandemic started, which left him with little face-to-face time with fellow board members or staff. He persevered nonetheless, and we were fortunate to have him serve as part of the Membership Committee, where he enjoyed encouraging others to become members of our organization. We'll be glad to see him when he returns to Northern Michigan from time to time.

THANK YOU DONORS

Donors by Giving Level from 01/01/2021 to 12/31/2021

STURGEON CIRCLE (\$10,000.00 TO \$999,999.00)

Anonymous Gifts Tucker Harris Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone, P.L.C. The Offield Family Foundation The PECO Foundation Ms. Margaretta Taylor

CHAMPIONS (\$5,000.00 TO \$9,999.00)

Bizzy Driscoll Sylvia S. Johnson Mr. and Mrs. David P. Parker Sonja and Jonathan Perkins Dr. and Mrs. Albert F. Polk Jr. Ham and Barb Schirmer

GUARDIANS (\$1,500.00 TO \$4,999.00)

Alice Greene McKinney and E. Kirk McKinney, Jr. Fund Mrs. Joanne Arbaugh Mr. and Mrs. P.J. Astolfi Richard J. and Susan Bingham Ron and Lisa Fenech Mr. Philip Ficks James W. and Laurie Ford Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey S. Ford Thomas H. and Patricia L. Jeffs Mr. and Mrs. Peter Klaas Mr. and Mrs. William A. Petzold Kenneth Bloem and Royce Ragland Cordelia W. Robinson Ms. Lynne G. Rosenthal Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Sarosi Ms. Nancy A. Swift

STEWARDS (\$500.00 TO \$1,499.00)

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Adams Mrs. Jennifer Adderley Mr. and Mrs. John Balser Dr. and Mrs. Robert Bartlett Albert Couch and Karen Barton M.D. Mr. and Mrs. John S. Benson Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Bleyaert Shannon B. and William W. Brower Mr. and Mrs. H. Hewett Brown Mr. and Mrs. Richard Brown Jr. Richard and Jane Bruening Bonnie and Mike Brunett Mr. and Mrs. Ian Bund **Burt Lake Preservation Association** Mr. and Mrs. David Buzzelli Mr. Michael T. Cameron Thomas Carruthers Mrs. Thomas H. Carruthers IV Jim and Patricia Clarke Matthew R. and Laurie C. Clarke

Michael and Mary Jane Clayton Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Coleman Dale and Anne Covy Decka Digital Mr. Robert M. DeHaven Rick and Sandy Doornbos Bill and Ginny Dorner Douglas Lake Improvement Association Driggers Foundation EarthShare of Michigan Barbara Nixon and George Elias Elk-Skegemog Lakes Association Judith Engelberg Mr. and Mrs. James H. Everest Mr. and Mrs. Marc A. Files Mr. and Mrs. Brian J. Fisher Michael J. and Marjorie K. FitzSimons Lee Ford Ms. Susan S. Ford Carroll J. Haas Foundation Dale and Bruce Frankel Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Frederick Lt. Col and Mrs. Daniel P. French, U.S.A.F.R., ret. Bill and Mardy Gast Mrs. Charles J. Ghesquiere Jr. Kathleen S. Glass Mr. John Goeke Virginia Page Goodrich Gorter Family Foundation Donna and Rick Gross Barbara Shelton and John Hamman Harbor Wear Mr. and Mrs. Paul S. Harkaway Mr. and Mrs. Phillip T. Harrison Mr. and Mrs. William Hewett Perry Irish and Rich Hodgson John and Barbara Hoffman Barbara and Jerome Hoganson Mr. and Mrs. William B. Holmes Mrs. Ann K. Irish Verne and Judy Istock Greta Jacobsen Richard Lord and Sue Jeffers Dutch and Leslie Jones Ms. Margo F. Jonker Connie Kabbe The Kasamis Family Steven and Bonnie Katz Mr. and Mrs. James H. Keller Kilwins Quality Confections Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Kneese John and Barbara Kowalczyk Ms. Liz Krimendahl Ms. Kathleen Kurtz Larks Lake Association Allen and Mary Ann Lassiter Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Lunt Mrs. Carolyn Lyons Mrs. Judy Mainland Mr. and Mrs. Tim Manthei Ed and Janet Mardigian John W. and Elizabeth J. Marklewitz Barbara Marshall Ms. Sharon McDonald Vaughn and Harriet McGraw DDS John and Marylou McIlwraith Thomas B. and Deborah McMullen Pat and Carolyn McNamara John Messer Mr. James Mesterharm

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph E. Miesel Mr. and Mrs. Bo Miller Mrs. Steve Miller Rob and Debra Monroe Mullett Lake Area Preservation Society Patricia Saad and Andrew S. Muth Julia N. Neavolls David and Suzu Neithercut Mark E. and Helen Neithercut Mr. and Mrs. Peter Neithercut Christopher and Linda Nelson Mr. and Mrs. Howard W. Newkirk Kevin J. O'Malley Family Mr. Mark W. Paddock Mr. and Mrs. Michael D. Parker Mr. and Mrs. John D. Paul Jr. Mr. B. Matthew Petcoff Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Peters Pickerel-Crooked Lakes Association Mr. and Mrs. Richard B. Pohl Jr. Preservation Association of Thayer Lake Ms. Ann Pringle R.E. Olds Foundation Claire and Tom Rasmussen Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rice III Drs. N. Edward and Patricia Robinson Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Roudi Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ruicci David and Linda Sandvik Lisa and Peter Schiff James C. and Kathleen S. Schroeder Peter and Helen Schulze **KC Schute** Mr. and Mrs. John R. Scott Mrs. Jenny Shuffield Mr. Gary L. Sieb Mr. and Mrs. Andy Siudara Mrs. Barbara R. Smith Nancy Sparks Spire Integrated Systems Sue and Gary Stewart Mrs. Valerie Štork Anne Melvin and Daniel Sullivan Perry Nelson and Clare Sullivan Diane Svigals Mrs. Anne Symchych Bob and Gretchen Tambellini Dick Taylor Mr. and Mrs. Howard A. Ternes Tip of the Mitt Orthodontics Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Titcomb Torch Lake Protection Alliance Rick and Michelle Tromble Mr. Robert S. Troth Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Trudell Jeff and Carol Twyman Christine and David M. Underwood Jr. Van Andel Foundation Mr. Julian P. Van Winkle Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Volle Carolyn Workman and Kurt Wacker William and Betty Wadland Mrs. Nancy Waldron Walloon Lake Association and Conservancy Mr. and Mrs. James F. Walters Mr. Douglas A. Warner III Mr. and Mrs. John Washbish Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wehrle Jr. Hugh N. Westwater Dr. Ondrea L. Wiliams

Ms. Suzanne Wingate Rex and Nancy Winter Dr. and Mrs. Philip Woollcott Jr. Todd and Pam Wyett Dr. and Mrs. Louis R. Zako

FRIENDS (\$250.00 TO \$499.00)

Linda and Steven Alexander

Barb Mathes and Patrick Alguire Amazon Smile Foundation Mr. and Mrs. John C. Anderson Mrs. Barry Andrews Mike and Holly Angileri Lori Arnold Gary W. and Ann V. Barfknecht Mr. and Mrs. Randall Barnhart Holly Beazley Mrs. Betty Benson Jeff and Stephanie Bigelow Mr. and Mrs. George Biltz Paul and Lisa Blanchard Catherine S. Bollinger Douglas and Suzanne Brenton Mr. Clayton J. Brown Mr. Richmond F. Brown Joseph and Paula Buckman Mr. and Mrs. James A. Campbell Dr. and Mrs. Michael L. Carson Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. CasaSanta Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Cassin Mr. and Mrs. John Chayka John and Janice Cheney Mr. and Mrs. J. Lewis Cooper Jr. Mr. and Mrs. David H. Deal Jane and Cliff Denay Jonathan and Wendy Dewys Amy T. Dickinson Mr. and Mrs. Pat Dougherty Mr. and Mrs. John Duffey Stephen H. and Nancy Eibling Michael and Marcy Etienne Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Faupel Mr. Lloyd C. Fell Geoffrey and Kathleen Fieger Andrea B. Fisher Mr. Joseph C. Fisher Tom and Carla French Dr. and Mrs. Arthur C. Frock Jr. Heather M. Gates Mr. and Mrs. Dean Ginther Mr. and Mrs. Terry Graessle Linda E. Greer Dr. and Mrs. Richard F. Gutow Mr. and Mrs. Michael S. Guy Jane and Jim Haugh Kem and Mary Hawkins Mr. and Mrs. Bruce A. Herbert Dan and Karen Hess Lawrence and Kathleen Hintz Dirk and June Hoffius Mrs. Jane Horn Mrs. Catherine Howe Mr. R. Craig Hupp Dr. and Mrs. John Hutto Mr. and Mrs. C. James Hyslop Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Írwin Renee & Earl Ishbia Family Foundation Mac and Suzie Jacob Pat and Roger Jacobson Joe and Judi Jarecki C. Christopher Jones Edie and Fred Kaufmann Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Keedy Mr. and Mrs. John T. Kelly III

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watershedcouncil.org/annual-report

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THE NEXT GENERATION OF WATERSHED STEWARDS

ome tributaries wander dreamily into placid lakes. Some gush vibrantly into roaring rivers. No matter how the tributary flows, it's a vital part of its watershed. Every drop of water in the watersheds we protect is precious to us.

So many people make up the Watershed Council, it's hard to select just a few folks to feature. They're like the drops of water that flow into our lakes and rivers, each one making a splash in their own right. However, we'd be remiss if we didn't mention a few newcomers to our area who have made our community a better place. Fortunately for us, Natalie and Chris Walts's meanderings through life led them to Petoskey and Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council.

If you've called our office in the last few years, you've likely spoken to Natalie Walts. She's our office manager who moved with her husband to Petoskey after they both realized that leaving their cottage on Douglas Lake to return downstate was unbearable. Natalie joined the Watershed Council staff in August 2019.

"This position checked a lot of boxes for me," said Natalie. "The work we do for our waters is invaluable. I taught middle school science in the past, and I'm able to use my background to help out with the Watershed Academy. We live close to downtown and I walk to work when I can, so it helps us live a more sustainable lifestyle. And we love the community vibe of Petoskey."

Chris Walts, who does volunteer stream monitoring in Bessey Creek, found out about the Watershed Council while researching Douglas Lake. "I needed

information before buying a cottage. I found a wealth of knowledge about the lake's water quality and invasive species on the website," said Chris. Why do they both work so hard to protect Northern Michigan's water through their work and volunteering? Their daughter, Nora, is a little over one year old. It's important to the Walts that she and other youth have the same opportunities to enjoy fresh, clean water that they have.

"We were finally able to start the family we wanted, and can't wait to raise Nora in this magical place. We want to teach her that she's so lucky to live around so much fresh water, and it's a big responsibility to maintain it for the generations to come," said Natalie.

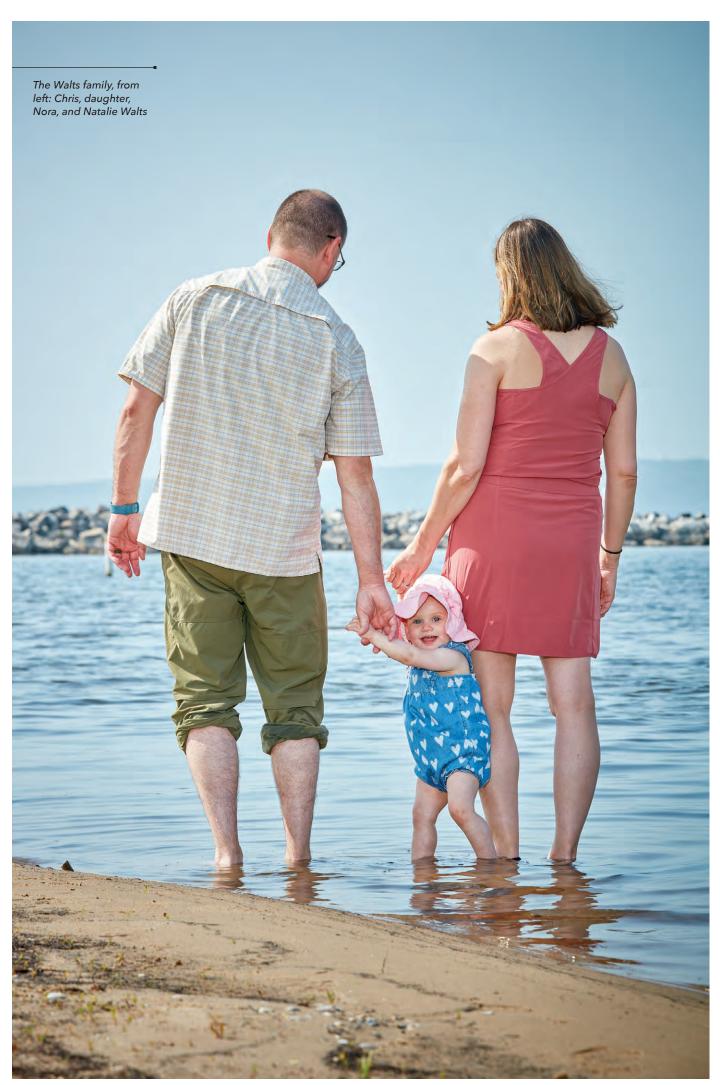
Chris would love to see Nora pursue her own passions, but if she chose a career in water resources, he would be happy about it. "I want us to be able to maintain the resources we have far into the future," he said. "I hope that people, regardless of their backgrounds, realize that clean water isn't a privilege for some—it's for everyone."

We're grateful to Natalie and Chris for sharing their love of clean water with the next generation. It's no small feat to raise kids who care about our resources. However, living in a freshwater paradise makes it that much easier.

In the end, this annual report is a tribute to all of you for making our vital work possible. Thank you for caring about our waters and protecting them for generations to come.

"We were finally able to start the family we wanted, and can't wait to raise Nora in this magical place. We want to teach her that she's so lucky to live around so much fresh water, and it's a big responsibility to maintain it for the generations to come,"

NATALIE WALTS



2021 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Watershed Council runs a tight ship. We use every dollar wisely, knowing our funding comes from people who expect nothing less from us. Our day to day operations are funded by our Operating Fund. The categories and amounts of revenues and expenses, taken from figures before our audit was completed, are illustrated in the charts below.

REVENUE

 Contributions
 \$603,646

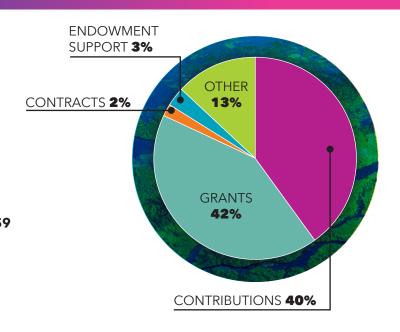
 Grants
 \$638,363

 Contracts
 \$32,196

 Endowment Distributions
 \$41,874

 Other
 \$196,380

 TOTAL
 \$1,512,359



EXPENSES MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL 14% Watershed Protection \$574,138 **DEVELOPMENT 8%** Policy and Advocacy \$257,865 Outreach and Education \$218,294 Development \$109,570 Management and General \$180,428 **TOTAL** \$1,340,295 **OUTREACH AND EDUCATION 16%** WATERSHED **POLICY AND** PROTECTION 43% **ADVOCACY 19%**

FUND BALANCES

AS OF DEC. 31, 2021

Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation

TAL:	\$2,634,878
MWC Internal Endowment Fund (Invested at Fifth Third) ENDOWED	\$747,032
Maura Brandi MSU Internship Fund - Grantmaking NON-ENDOWED	\$8,115
Maura Brandi MSU Internship Fund ENDOWED	\$54,121
TOMWC Fund ENDOWED	\$46,278
Charles Minor Taylor III Memorial Endowment Fund ENDOWED	\$1,043,275
arlevoix County Community Foundation	
Land and Water Education Fund NON-ENDOWED	\$168,567
Water Quality Fund ENDOWED	\$567,490

The Watershed Council's contributions continue to grow in challenging times. In 2021, the Watershed Council received \$565,303 in membership gifts. We also received \$103,970 in contributions towards endowments, special projects, and bequests, and welcomed 194 new members for a total of 2,224 member individuals, families, organizations, and businesses.

Our private contributions represent one half of our total operating budget, so you can see why we truly couldn't do it without our members!

The Watershed Council's commitment to long-term financial success

The Watershed Council relies on endowment funds for both current and long-term funding. We have general agency funds at both the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation and the Charlevoix County Community Foundation. We also have a fund that is managed at Fifth Third Bank

We rely on two funds that support our education programs: one at Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation and the other at Charlevoix County Community Foundation. Our intern program is supported by resources from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation—the Maura Brandi MSU Internship Funds—created to honor a longtime member's daughter who passed away several years ago.

The total market value of all five of these funds as of December 31, 2021, is \$3,524,132.

Endowment funds offer a variety of opportunities for gift giving, including planned gifts. Please consider a gift to help us reach our goal and sustain our programs into the future.



VOLUNTEERS

Gerald and Kathy Batka Jerry Beehler Kory Alaniz Bill Beeman Roger Bergstedt Don Bisdorf Sue Bissell Herm and Darlene Boatin

Rick Brandi Mary Castronovo Chris Chobot Dave Clapp Dale Claudepierre Tec Cummings Nancy J. Cunningham

Mr. Tom Darnton Rick Doornbos Lindsey Dotson

Mr. and Mrs. Pat Dougherty

Tia Esposito Cheryl Lynn Fields Bill Foster

Mr. and Mrs. John Fowler Matt and Jennifer Gabris

Dr. John Gannon Kathy Germain Camille Glass Tom Gschwind Michelle Goodyear

Jim King and Janie Guiliani Dr. Ervin Hire

Art Hoadley Jerry Huey Irish Boat Shop Joe and Judi Jarecki Mark and Kathryn Jarvie Richard Jenkins Dr. Marty Jones

Mr. John Kafer Mary Beth Kazanski

Sheri Rhoads and Adam Kennedy

Bob Kingon Eric Kintz Kelly Jo Kitchen Chuck Kneese Tom Knox Tim Kohr Doug Fuller Jeff and Peggy Landon

Nils, Emma, and Jack Lindwall Patrick, Nolan, and Caleb Little Jill Lynch Rev. Ken Mahan

John W. and Elizabeth J. Marklewitz

Jack Marlette Nancy McDonald Rick Meyers Rob Monroe Ron and Linda Moore

John and Stacie Morrison

Jim Muth John Northrup Mike Novak

Jack and Nina Palazzolo

Donna Perla Ken Polakowski Kevin Prediger Claire Rasmussen Steve Reh Thomas Ross

Pam and Dennis Roudi

Stan Royalty

Andrew Sahara Oliver and Ana Schwab Darrell Schwalm Andrea Shafer Marie Sheets Jenna Sherman Karie Slavik Lloyd Sparks Robert Stetler Sue Stewart Donna Stine Christian Stoldt Mike Supernault Jac Talcott

Ron VanSickle Beth Varty Christopher Walts Amanda Weinert Robert Whitbread Warren Woolcott John Spevacek

Roy Tassava **Greg Torsky**

Headwaters Trout Unlimited

Antrim County Conservation District

Michelle Goodyear Kathleen Runey Simon Gelb

Mouth of the Pigeon River at Mullett Lake.

426 BAY STREET, PETOSKEY, MI, 49770

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