



Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) is a 501(c) 4 non-profit corporation formed over twenty years ago in order to effectively advocate for the creation or preservation of state laws and/or policies designed to protect, preserve, and promote the sustainable and wise use of our state's immense treasure of high quality freshwater resources. Our primary mission will be accomplished by pro-active participation in Michigan's legislative process (lobbying), by participating in court cases whose outcomes may have statewide ramifications, and/or by direct involvement with natural resources management, or environment focused state agencies or departments.

On the last weekend of the 2019 state budget fiscal year when we know that Governor Whitmer and her staff are in the process of reviewing the proposed 2020 state budget that was submitted by the leadership of the state legislature late this week, the President and Board of Directors of Michigan Waterfront Alliance are encouraging you to take a few moments out of your busy weekend to contact the Governor's office via the Share Your Opinion website to express your support for a viable level of Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) dedicated program funding.

Please encourage Governor Whitmer to support the \$150K that has been allocated in both the Senate and House versions of the proposed 2020 state budget to fund the operation of the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program for one more year, and, encourage our Governor to insist that our state legislature appropriate a level of funding to MiCorps that would allow the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy to (again) begin operating the full suite of inland lake and stream volunteer-based water quality monitoring programs as well as permit the agency to administer the unique and highly successful collaborative partnership in a manner that will help ensure its long-term sustainability.

As many of our readers know, EGLE senior leadership was forced to suspend the Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program, one of MiCorps key components, due to lack of funding. In the absence of a dedicated funding source, EGLE managers have conducted the MiCorps Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program over the past two years by internally shifting limited discretionary funds from other critical surface water quality programs, or, as is the case for the 2019 program, with a one time "grant" for \$150,000 made available to the agency by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

Michigan Waterfront Alliance, a now decades old 501 (c) 4 membership-based non-profit organization dedicated to lobbying Michigan's legislature branch, and pro-actively working within our state courts in order to preserve and protect our vast legacy of high quality fresh water resources, and our constantly challenged riparian rights, wholeheartedly supports the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy request for a 2020 state budget appropriation of \$377,500 that would allow the agency to fully restore and properly administer Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) volunteer-based lakes and streams water quality monitoring programs.

In light of the fact that our inland lakes, rivers, and streams are known to contribute somewhere in the neighborhood of \$10 to \$15 billion dollars to Michigan's economy annually, a legislative appropriation of \$377, 500 (representing a tiny fraction of what our freshwater resources contribute to Michigan's economy), that would allow EGLE senior leadership to fully fund and administer MiCorps programs, represents a wise and timely investment in Michigan's future.

Please click here to Share Your Opinion with Michigan Governor Whitmer regarding the need to support the \$150K that has been appropriated by the state legislature to support the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program for one more year, and encourage her to insist that the state legislature appropriate viable funding levels that would allow the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy leadership to fully restore Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) volunteer citizen-based inland lake and stream water quality monitoring programs.

Join Michigan Waterfront Alliance!

- Are you tired of funding the management of aquatic invasive species on your lake that were introduced by recreational boaters using the local MI Department of Natural Resources public boating access site?
- Are you just a bit angry that recreational boaters using your lake are not being asked to contribute their fair share to combat the negative influences of aquatic invasive species?
- Are you worried about the fact that your lakefront residential property values are being negatively influenced by the steadily increasing presence of aquatic invasive species?
- Are you concerned about the fact that it is nearly impossible to find an inland lake in Michigan that does not currently host one or more potentially harmful aquatic invasive species?
- Are you aware of the fact that inland lakes are Michigan's most valuable natural resource, and that our state legislature has thus far appropriated almost nothing in the way of budget resources to help ensure they remain healthy and viable?

If your answer is yes to any of these important questions, please help ensure that your voice is heard in Lansing by joining Michigan Waterfront Alliance today.

Visit the Michigan Waterfront Alliance Web Site

William Brown
Michigan Waterfont Alliance, Inc
11250 Riethmiller Rd.
Grass Lake, MI 49240