



Michigan Lake & Stream Associations

E-Newsletter for June 2012

MI DEQ Seeks Public Review and Comment on Proposed Revisions to Lake and Stream Activity General and Minor Permit Categories

On May 7th, 2012 the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Water Resources Division issued two public notices in order to provide an opportunity for public review and comment on proposed additions and changes to existing General and Minor Permit categories for activities in wetlands, inland lakes, streams and the Great Lakes. Please read the complete DEQ public notices dated May 7th, 2012 which appear on pages four and five of this month's newsletter. You may review the proposed changes to Minor and General Permit categories in detail at www.michigan.gov/wetlands .

The DEQ Water Resources Division indicates that “the intent of these categories is to allow better coordination between applicable statutes and to provide clarity on the requirements that must be met for each category. Permit applications made for these types of activities may be processed in an **accelerated** manner **without the issuance of an individual public notice or public hearing.**”

ML&SA Opposes DEQ Issuance of Permits for Public Docks at Public Road Ends and on Publicly Owned Lands without Public Notification or Hearing

The Michigan DEQ is proposing to revise the criteria for the issuance of permits associated with certain lake and stream activities (read the above article). Proposed changes to Minor Permit categories would allow the DEQ to issue permits for the installation of “public docks at public road ends” and on publicly owned lands without first issuing a public notice and/or holding a public hearing within the affected lake community.

While Michigan Lake and Stream Associations does not oppose the installation of public docks under the limited criteria specified by Public Act 56, we nevertheless recognize that the very presence of these obtrusive physical structures at public road ends carry significant potential to adversely affect public safety, degrade natural shoreline structures and habitats, affect the riparian rights of those living near or adjacent to public road ends, diminish the overall navigability of inland lakes as well as the overall social ambiance and quality of life within affected inland lake neighborhoods. For these important reasons, Michigan Lake and Stream Associations is adamantly opposed to the issuance of DEQ permits to install “a single seasonal public dock or wharf that is authorized by the local unit of government...” or on public lands without first offering affected lakefront residents the right of due process fostered by timely public notification and/or the opportunity discuss the proposed public dock at an open public hearing.

Michigan Lake and Stream Associations strongly suggests that lakefront property owners send an e-mail to Mr. Todd Losee (**e-mail: loseet@michigan.gov**) of the DEQ Water Resources Division expressing their objection to the issuance of Minor Permits to allow installation of a public dock at a public road end or on public lands without first notifying members of the affected lake community and/or holding an open public hearing. Please note that the deadline for commenting on these proposed changes is June 21st.

Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program Offers Free Trainings to Citizens to Help Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species in Michigan's Inland Lakes



Did you know there are nearly one million watercraft registered in the state of Michigan? It comes as no surprise that boating is one of the most popular recreational activities in the state. Unfortunately, invasive non-native plants, fishes, and other organisms interfere with the enjoyment of using our inland lakes and cause significant damage to our boating equipment.

Boaters unintentionally spread aquatic invaders from one body of water to another when invasive species hitch a ride on their recreational water equipment. Fortunately, most boaters want to help prevent the spread of these invasive species but some are unfamiliar with the simple steps they should take each time they leave the water.

The easiest way to insure you are not spreading aquatic invaders is to inspect your equipment and remove plants, mud, and fish before leaving a body of water. Also, by draining water from equipment before transporting it, you are insuring that no microscopic invaders are unintentionally spreading to the next body of water you are going to. Remember never to release fish or plants into a different body of water then it came out of.

Would you like to be a part of keeping our lakes free of invasive species? Come be a part of the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program this 2012 boating season! The Clean Boats, Clean Waters program is designed to educate water enthusiasts about preventing the spread of invasive species. Clean Boats, Clean Waters is a volunteer program conducted by Michigan Sea Grant, with support from the federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. A Clean Boats, Clean Waters volunteer identifies non-native species, inspects watercraft and equipment, demonstrates cleaning techniques for boats and trailers and shares educational information about invasive species with the public. Volunteers can have a huge impact in Michigan's efforts to prevent the spread of invasive species.

Participants in Michigan's 2012 Clean Boats, Clean Waters program will be trained for success! Volunteers that attend free workshops around the state will learn how to properly inspect equipment and will be trained on how to conduct a boater education program in their community. Each volunteer who attends a training receives a Clean Boats, Clean Waters handbook and lake associations are given a resource kit that contains educational materials, invasive species identification cards, watercraft inspection stickers, and T-shirts that can be worn when out at boat launches.

Thanks to federal support through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, there is no charge during the 2012 boating season to individuals or lake associations who would like to become involved, however this is the last year for this opportunity to be completely free. To learn more about this program please visit us on the web at <http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/cbcw/index.html>. If you or your lake association are interested in forming a Clean Boats, Clean Waters volunteer team in your local area please contact us at CBCW@msu.edu or by telephone at 517-432-1492.



How to Use “GAPS” in Local Government to Influence Elections

by Paul J. Sniadecki, President, Eagle Lake Improvement Association, Inc.



The next local “Primary” Election is only 2 months away and the General Election is only 5 months away. Most local municipalities in Michigan will elect to retain, or to bring new faces and ideas to their governing bodies in 2012. We should never underestimate how effective a local municipality (township, city, or village) can be in protecting local lakes, if progressive, conservation oriented people are elected to the governing body. The overall impact on lakes (whether positive or negative) can be dramatic.

In the May 2012 e-newsletter article we reviewed the many ways local Riparians could find “gaps” in local government concerning watershed protection, as well as other governance issues, that need to be addressed. This article will suggest ways to give a “voice” to those “gap issues” to make for an interesting campaign period in your lake area.

If you are **candidate** running for elected office, the discovered gaps can be the “platform” you structure your campaign around. Be sure to check your facts to ensure you have a solid basis to make your claims. Also, always have a range of positive and possible solutions you will work toward to close the gaps. Merely identifying what needs to change, without offering a *vision* of the change, is equivalent to being a naysayer. For example, if over development threatens your lake, your possible solutions could include support for an Anti-Funneling/Key Holing Ordinance, and/or an ordinance requiring renovations or new development to maintain natural area buffer strips along the shoreline. If governmental transparency needs to be enhanced, you can suggest specific ways you will ensure agendas and “official information packets” are available for property owners, residents, and other interested parties to review prior to each governmental meeting.

If you did not find a Riparian minded person to run for elected office in your area, then the role of a “**rational gadfly**” can be embarked on. In this time-sensitive role, your task would be to raise the issues in a factual manner so as to frame the overall campaign for the candidates who running. Be sure to include any scientific studies to support your position, as well as cite examples of nearby local governments who have been successful at implementing positive watershed solutions. The Michigan Riparian Magazine, and the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association website, provide a plethora of supporting material you can use. You can submit “Op-Ed” articles, and/or letters to local newspapers. The small regional publications are always looking for something interesting to print. Another way is to launch a near-mirror website of your local government’s website. For example, if your Township’s site is www.YOURTOWNSHIP.org, chances are the www.yourtownship.COM domain name is available for a few dollars. You could launch a near-mirror site and post your issues and positions papers there. Just be sure you stick to the facts and not take any inflammatory “pot-shots” that lead to legal problems. I have seen this near-mirror website tactic work in one township and it definitely was a success at providing a “voice” for local issues. The webmaster advised the vast majority of the “hits” were people looking for local government’s website!

Next month we will discuss more ways to use those discovered “gaps” to focus the voters’ attention on Riparian and Governance Issues. BE AWARE: The deadline for filing as a political party candidate was May 15, 2012; however, the deadline to file as an “Independent Candidate” is July 19, 2012.

Editor’s Note: This is the eighth in a yearlong series of articles that will appear in this newsletter regarding the upcoming general election. As Mr. Sniadecki has so effectively illustrated in his articles, local elections in particular present Michigan voters with an outstanding opportunity to foster constructive, community-based pre-election discussion and debate focused on the important role of local government in the wise management of Michigan’s wealth of lake and stream resources. The significance of this discussion is highlighted by the fact that very few local governments in Michigan have effectively exercised their state legislature granted authority to contribute to the preservation and protection of our inland lakes and streams. **You** and your neighbors are uniquely empowered to affect the outcome of local elections and the future of your favorite lake or stream!

**State of Michigan
Department of Environmental Quality
Water Resources Division**

PUBLIC NOTICE

**PROPOSED GENERAL PERMIT CATEGORIES FOR
ACTIVITIES IN WETLANDS, INLAND LAKES, STREAMS
AND THE GREAT LAKES**

May 7, 2012

Pursuant to Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams, Part 303, Wetlands Protection, and Part 325, Great Lakes Submerged Lands of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, the Department of Environmental Quality's Water Resources Division is proposing additions and changes to the existing General Permit (GP) categories. These categories are for activities that are similar in nature, will cause only minimal adverse effects on the environment when performed separately, and will have only minimal cumulative adverse effects on the environment. The intent of these categories is to allow better coordination between applicable statutes and to provide clarity on the requirements that must be met for each category. Permit applications made for these types of activities may be processed in an accelerated manner without the issuance of an individual public notice or public hearing. GP categories are issued for a five-year period. The purpose of this public notice is to provide an opportunity for public review and comment to proposed additions and changes to the existing GP categories only. The proposed GP categories can be found at www.michigan.gov/wetlands. Written comments on the new Proposed General Permit Categories should be sent to:

Mr. Todd Losee
Department of Environmental Quality
Water Resources Division
P.O. Box 30458
Lansing, MI 48909-7958
loseet@michigan.gov

All comments must be received by Thursday, June 21, 2012.

This notice will be reviewed by federal agencies in accordance with an agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, under provisions of Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act Amendments of 1977.

**State of Michigan
Department of Environmental Quality
Water Resources Division**

**PUBLIC NOTICE
PROPOSED MINOR PROJECT CATEGORIES FOR
ACTIVITIES IN WETLANDS, INLAND LAKES, STREAMS
AND THE GREAT LAKES**

May 7, 2012

Pursuant to Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams, Part 303, Wetlands Protection, and Part 325, Great Lakes Submerged Lands of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, the Department of Environmental Quality's Water Resources Division is proposing additions and changes to the existing Minor Project (MP) categories. These categories are for activities that are similar in nature, will cause only minimal adverse effects on the environment when performed separately, and will have only minimal cumulative adverse effects on the environment. The intent of these categories is to allow better coordination between applicable statutes and to provide clarity on the requirements that must be met for each category. Permit applications made for these types of activities may be processed in an accelerated manner without the issuance of an individual public notice or public hearing. MP categories are issued for a five-year period. The purpose of this public notice is to provide an opportunity for public review and comment to proposed additions and changes to the existing MP categories only. The proposed MP categories can be found at www.michigan.gov/wetlands. Written comments on the new Proposed Minor Project Categories should be sent to:

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Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society (McNALMS) Schedules 3rd Annual Lakes Conference and Natural Shoreline Workshop

Friday, September 21, 2012
Kettunen Center
Tustin, Michigan

Save the dates for Michigan NALMS' third annual conference this September. Aquatic invasive species and current lake research will be the topics discussed on Friday, September 21, 2012. Additionally, a pre-conference homeowner's workshop and tour on natural shorelines will be held the day prior, September 20. It will be hosted by [Muskegon River Watershed Assembly](#) and [Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership](#). The evening of Thursday, September 20 will feature a reception for all conference and workshop participants. The conference and workshop will be held at the Kettunen Center in Tustin, MI near Cadillac.

The main conference will feature talks on the state permits relating to aquatic invasive species, and its plans for dealing with new invaders such as Hydrilla, and on assessing lakes from a landscape perspective. The afternoon sessions will address some key native and invasive problem species, and provide updated research on these species including Canada Geese, Harmful Algal Blooms, Phragmites, Cabomba, and the hybrid species of Eurasian Water Milfoil. The pre-conference workshop will introduce participants to the concept of natural shorelines and their benefit to inland lake ecosystems. The 3-hour workshop will also highlight natural shoreline design concepts, using native plants and bio-engineered erosion control, along with pointers from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality on shoreline permits. Registration includes a copy of the popular publication, "**Natural Shoreline Landscapes on Michigan Inland Lakes: Guidebook for Property Owners**," along with a natural shoreline tour led by MSU Extension's Jane Herbert followed by pizza and refreshments. Lunch is also included in the registration for both days. The advanced registration costs are \$50 for the conference, \$40 for the workshop, and \$85 for both. Detailed information as well as registration and accommodation details are available at www.mcnalms.org.

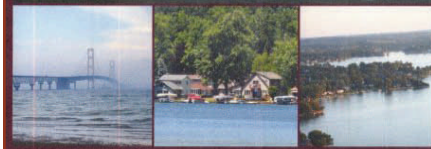
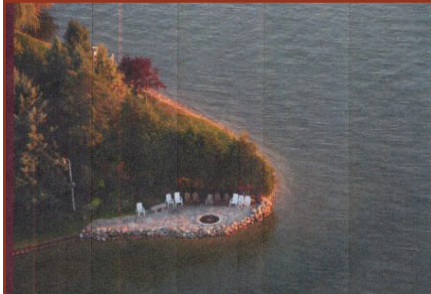
The conference is sponsored by the Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society with co-sponsors Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, Inc., Institute of Water Research, Michigan State University, Wexford County Drain Commission, and the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership. For more information contact Lois Wolfson at wolfson1@msu.edu or Mike Solomon at draincom@wexfordcounty.org.



This always interesting and informative publication caters directly to the special interests and concerns of the lakefront homeowner. Riparian property owners share a common bond through their own special set of interests and needs, based around the lifestyle that accompanies lakefront living. Oakland Lakefront is designed to serve this special group. **Oakland Lakefront** is a well rounded publication that not only publishes riparian lifestyle related articles, but also hard hitting stories regarding riparian rights, aquatic invasive species, inland lake fisheries and lake management issues of special interest to riparian property owners throughout the state of Michigan. To learn more about Oakland Lakefront, visit their web site at:

<http://oaklandlakefront.com>

"Isn't buying and selling waterfront property in Michigan virtually the same as purchasing or selling any other real estate? Absolutely not! There are many issues associated with waterfront properties in Michigan that are not present with other real estate. **Anyone who does not appreciate (and plan for) those differences regarding a purchase or sales transaction involving a waterfront property does so at their own significant risk." - Clifford H. Bloom, Attorney-at-Law**



**BUYING AND SELLING
WATERFRONT
PROPERTY
IN MICHIGAN**

By Clifford H. Bloom

The Michigan Lake & Stream Associations, Inc. ("ML&SA") is pleased to announce its new book entitled *Buying and Selling Waterfront Property in Michigan* by renowned riparian and water law expert, Grand Rapids Attorney Clifford H. Bloom.

This new book is a "must" for anyone who is interested in waterfront property in Michigan. The list of people who should purchase the book includes not only riparians (and would be riparians) but also realtors and real estate agents, attorneys, government officials, surveyors and teachers. This book is a "how to" publication that deals with numerous real estate and waterfront issues. The book is 264 pages in length - this is an extensive review of the knowledge you need to prepare yourself before proceeding with a waterfront real estate transaction !

The purchase price is \$20.00 plus shipping and handling. However, quantity based discounts are available. The following is an order form that you can use to purchase one or more copies of the new book. If you are interested in obtaining pricing for group or bulk purchase discounts, please send either an email to the Central Office manager Sharon Wagner via e-mail at swagner@mlswa.org or call (989) 831-5100.

To order *Buying and Selling Waterfront Property in Michigan*, please complete and mail the order form seen below.

Buying and Selling Waterfront Property in Michigan

Book Order Form

Send your check made payable to **Michigan Lake & Stream Associations** with this order form to:

**Michigan Lake & Stream Associations
300 N. State Street Suite A
Stanton, Michigan 48888**

Name (please print): _____

Address: _____
Street or P.O. Box Number

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Please select:

___ : 1 book @ \$20.00 ea. plus \$6.00 S/H = \$26.00

___ : 2-3 books @ \$20.00 ea. plus \$12.00 S/H (2 Books = \$52.00; 3 books = \$72.00)

___ : 4-9 books @ \$17.50 ea. plus \$15.00 S/H (Ex.: 8 books. x \$17.50 = \$140.00 + \$15.00 S/H = \$155.00)

SPRING
2012



THE MICHIGAN RIPARIAN

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www.mi-riparian.org

RIPARIAN (ri-'pair-ee-en) adj. Relating to or living or located on the bank of a natural watercourse, such as a river, or of a lake or a tidewater.

DEVOTED TO THE MANAGEMENT AND WISE USE OF MICHIGAN'S LAKES AND STREAMS Published Quarterly



photo credit Joel Bull

It's Spring. Welcome home to the Loons!

Did you know that Loons return to the same place each year to nest?

RIP road end battles? See pages 19 and 25

"For over forty six years, **The Michigan Riparian Magazine** has served as our state's only quarterly publication dedicated to the unique issues and interests of those fortunate enough to reside on waterfront properties. The magazine's historical archive portrays a rich chronicle detailing the life and times of the people, politics, science and issues that have defined Michigan's storied waterfronts for nearly half a century."

To subscribe to this unique and affordable publication dedicated to Michigan's freshwater resources, visit

www.mi-riparian.org



MICHIGAN NATURAL SHORELINE PARTNERSHIP

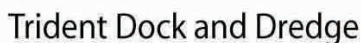
Promoting Natural Shoreline Landscaping to Protect Michigan's Inland Lakes

PARTNERSHIP OBJECTIVES

- Train contractors and landscape professionals about natural shoreline technologies and bioengineered erosion control.
- Educate property owners about natural shorelines and technologies that benefit lake ecosystems.
- Research, demonstrate, and develop natural shoreline technologies that benefit lake ecosystems.
- Encourage local and state policies that promote natural shoreline management.

MEMBERS

- JFNew, Inc.
- Mich. Assn. of Conservation Districts
- Mich. Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society
- Mich. Dept. of Environmental Quality
- Mich. Dept. of Natural Resources
- Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber
- Mich. Lake and Stream Assn.
- Mich. Native Plant Producers Assn.
- Mich. Nursery and Landscape Assn.
- Mich. Sea Grant College Program
- Mich. State University Dept. of Horticulture
- Mich. State University Institute of Ag Tech
- Mich. State University Extension
- Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
- Trident Dock and Dredge



Natural shoreline landscaping is the use of ecological principles and practices to reduce erosion and achieve the stabilization and safety of shorelines, while enhancing habitat, improving aesthetics, and saving money.



www.mishorelinepartnership.org

www.facebook.com/MNSP1



MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 369
Fenton, Michigan 48430-0369



WE LOBBY TO PROTECT MICHIGAN'S LAKE AND STREAMS. THAT'S WHAT WE DO.

We are asking you to join or renew your membership to Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA). By doing so, you can help in a statewide effort to protect Michigan's lakes and streams. MWA lobbies state government on a wide variety of issues that affect our water resources, such as road-end access, funding for the state's permitting system, marina regulations, septic upgrade regulations, phosphorus fertilizers, and much more.

You know how it works. When the legislature is pushed to weaken water resource protection measures, they will do just that—unless we speak out to protect our lakes and streams. It is difficult for one person or one lake association to carry the burden of protecting 11,000 lakes. And though we'd like to think that right will always prevail, one lone voice is not enough to get the attention of the leaders in state government. That is why we must join together to make our collective voice heard in Lansing. These efforts were utilized in getting legislation passed, this year, to restrict use of phosphorus fertilizer on turf.

To get our message out, we retain professional lobbyists who are skilled and experienced in issue advocacy. While this expertise is very effective, it is also costly. As such, we ask you to join or renew your individual membership for \$50, Lake Association membership for \$100 or your Corporation membership for \$200 per year.

Please note the line "MWA Legal Assistance Fund" on the enclosed return envelope and form. After costly filing on two (2) Amicus Briefs (Appellate court and Supreme Court) and direct mail fundraising campaigns (to Lake Charlevoix residents), MWA incurred a total cost of over \$3000 on just this one case regarding the loss of riparian rights by court action. The MWA Board of Directors voted, last December, to create a MWA Legal Assistance Fund to provide the funds to support significant legal cases relevant to the mission of MWA. Funds will be disbursed in a manner consistent with MWA bylaws.

We need to build this Legal Assistance Fund as soon as possible. **Please be as generous as you can.**

Your past understanding and support has been appreciated and necessary in order to continue a professional campaign for water resource protection.

Please send back the application below plus give a copy to a like minded neighbor or friend.

Sincerely,
MWA Board of Directors

Michigan Waterfront Alliance Membership Application

(Jan '12-ML)

Annual Dues: Individual Membership - **\$50.00** Lake Associations - **\$100.00** Corporations - **\$200.00**

Please print:

Name _____ Date _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

Township _____ Lake / Stream Association _____

Make checks payable to: **Michigan Waterfront Alliance**

Send dues and contributions to:

Michigan Waterfront Alliance

PO Box 369

Fenton, MI 48430

www.mwai.org

Individual Member (\$50): _____

Lake Association (\$100): _____

Corporation (\$200): _____

Legal Assistance Fund: _____

Other donation: _____



New Mailing Address for ML&SA and The Michigan Riparian/Foundation

Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, Inc.
300 N. State St. Suite A
Stanton, MI 48888

The Michigan Riparian Magazine
300 N. State St. Suite A
Stanton, MI 48888

Michigan Lakes and Streams Foundation, Inc.
300 N. State St. Suite A
Stanton, MI 48888

The most comprehensive publication
ever written about lake associations !

Now Available from our Central Office

An ML&SA Publication

Contact Sharon at 989.831.5100
or e-mail swagner@mlswa.org



Michigan Lake Associations— The Nuts and Bolts

By Clifford H. Bloom



Order Your Copy Today !

Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership

“Promoting collaboration to advance
stewardship of Michigan's inland lakes.”



To learn more about the Partnership, visit
www.michiganlakes.msue.msu.edu

Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society

“The Michigan Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society (McNALMS) is a group of professionals, practitioners, and interested citizens, who care about the preservation and wise management of Michigan lakes.” For more info visit -

www.mcnalms.org
for more information

Recommended Web Resource of the Month

Michigan State University Extension has redesigned its website to include a “News” feature. Just go to <http://msue.anr.msu.edu/> and click on “Natural Resources.” New articles on lakes, streams, watersheds, water quality are being posted monthly. Use the search tool and type in key words, like lake or shoreline, to find articles and links to resources on these topics. The site is also searchable for gardening, landscaping and a variety of other topics addressed by MSU Extension.

<http://msue.anr.msu.edu>