

March 2020 at MLSA - Spring is Here!

From: Michigan Lakes and Streams Association (info@mlswa.org)

To: Sciencechick01@yahoo.com

Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020, 05:03 PM EDT



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Important Message About Our Annual Conference

The health of our members and attendees is our top priority, we want to assure you that we have been monitoring the current situation with the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. As a result we are in the process of developing an alternate experience for riparians and those interested in our conference topics.

*Please look for more information from us by the end of the month with our final decision about holding the conference. We will have details on how we plan to help those who have already registered and what our alternate conference experience may look like. Thank you for your patience and understanding at this difficult time. **Please stay healthy and safe!***

Did you know that Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville was named one of the top 2 resorts in the Midwest by Conde Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards? [Read more here.](#) We look forward to a healthier future so we can all experience an award winning resort while learning and networking with fellow Michigan Riparians in 2021.



Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch Online Training

MLSA is excited to host an online training for the Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch and a Secchi Disk demonstration on Friday, March 27 from 1pm to 2:30pm. The training is lead by Jo Latimore and Erick Elgin, the EAPW program administrators at MSU. All you have to do is click the link below on Friday the 27th at 1pm to participate in the training. If you are unable to join us, we will also have a video of the training available to you when you sign up to participate in the Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch program this year.

Topic: *Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch Training*

Time: *Mar 27, 2020 01:00 PM Eastern Time*

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/734851555>

You must also contact Jo Latimore (latimor1@msu.edu or [517-432-1491](tel:517-432-1491)) by May 1 to confirm that you will be conducting the Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch. Michigan State University and Extension have a separate contract with the state to offer the Exotic Aquatic

Plant Watch, so this parameter will continue as usual, but with no enrollment fees. Alternative training arrangements can be made with MSU if they are available this year. Field visits to selected lakes in support of your invasive plant monitoring efforts will also be subject to availability.

Other Lake Monitoring Information:

MiCorps CLMP (Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program) will be available again in 2021. The full range of lake monitoring options and information for 2020 is here: <https://www.hrwc.org/what-we-do/programs/2020-lake-monitoring/>

Dissolved oxygen meters are not available for use from EGLE in 2020. But, MLSA can assist you in purchasing a meter for use in 2020 that will meet EGLE's requirements. If MLSA orders five or more meters we can get a reduced rate, we are selling at cost with no mark up. **Orders must be placed by April 1, 2020.**

[Click here for the full list of DO Meter options.](#)

Please contact Mike Gallagher: [269-209-1566](tel:269-209-1566)



MLSA in Lansing with Michigan Environmental Council

By Melissa DeSimone, MLSA Executive Director

Michigan Lakes and Streams Association has now partnered with the Michigan Environmental Council (MEC). This is an outstanding organization that helps us to bring water and riparian issues to the forefront in Lansing. Earlier this month, we were able to participate in the Directors and Stakeholders meeting at Constitution Hall in Lansing.

This meeting brought all the major environmentally minded organizations in the state together to discuss the most pressing issues we currently face with the directors from the state agencies. The meeting was led by Director Liesl Clark of the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE formerly DEQ), Director Dan Eichinger of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Director Gary McDowell of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. All three directors gave an update about their departments and held an open discussion about issues of interest to the MEC partners.

Topics of discussion included high water, algal blooms on Lake Erie, energy issues, Line 5, and PFAS, among others. It was good to hear from the directors that the effects of high water on inland water bodies is a top priority for the state agencies even though most of the press has been related to erosion on the Great Lakes. We discussed the effects of high water on the aquifer, the stress to septic systems, and the possibility of nutrient loading as a result. It was also clear that the departments are working together on these issues.

As we move forward in our relationship with MEC, we also look forward to the stronger voice this will afford us, the opportunity to build partnerships with other like-minded

organizations, and this seat at the table with state directors for the discussion of pressing issues.



Early Spring Online Event Opportunities

Social distancing certainly allows us to be outside! Just in time for spring yard work along your lake or river front, join Julia Kirkwood and Ralph Reznick of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) for Friday afternoon online sessions in April. All you have to do is click the link below on the indicated Friday afternoon at 1pm to participate on your computer.

MI Shoreland Stewards Program: Are you a steward? Are you sure? Protecting a lake is more than picking up pet waste and not using phosphorus based fertilizer. Find out how to use the online survey to assess your property, receive general recommendations for improvements and what kind of resources there are to help engage your lake community in participating as well. Presented by Julia Kirkwood, EGLE Water Resources Division: Nonpoint Source Program.

Topic: *Are You a Steward?*

Time: *Apr 3, 2020 01:00 PM Eastern Time*

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/825703392>

Learn **How Runoff Affects Rivers**, join Ralph Reznick an engineer with EGLE's Nonpoint Source Program for a talk about our rivers - what goes into them and how we can keep river water clean.

Topic: *How Runoff Affects Rivers*

Time: *Apr 10, 2020 01:00 PM Eastern Time*

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/270956165>

A third online event on April 17th is TBD, we will keep you updated as plans are formalized.

Topic: *TBD*

Time: *Apr 17, 2020 01:00 PM Eastern Time*

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/364368610>

**Look for more online learning opportunities during this time of quarantine in this newsletter, on the [MLSA Facebook page](#), and website: mymlsa.org

High Water Legislative Update

On Tuesday, March 17th the Michigan State Senate passed HB 5401, HB 5402 and HB 5463.

We reported on these bills in special legislative updates in February as they were first coming to committee. These bills deal with high water levels and allowing temporary speed limits and fines for violations of the speed limits to protect the shorelines and personal property effected by erosion and water damage.

The committee did make a few changes to the bills; they allowed a third 14 day speed limit reduction to HB 5401 when there is a public hearing and a 6 month plan, as provided by HB 5463, is being implemented. HB 5463 has also been changed to extend the temporary ordinance to up to a year if there is a need to wait for DNR approval.

You can read the history of this new legislation here:

[HB 5401](#)

[HB 5402](#)

[HB 5463](#)

As more water and riparian related bills come through the Michigan legislature we will keep you informed.

Deadline Approaching for 2020 Scholarship Applications

MLSA Announces the 3rd Annual Megan E. Cook Scholarship: for a College Student Working to Protect our Inland Lakes

by Dr. Jennifer L. Jermalowicz-Jones, MLSA Board Director

One of the primary missions of MLSA is to provide educational opportunities to promising youth that are interested in the health of our precious inland water resources. MLSA believes that every young individual has an opportunity to help with lake protection for future generations. This very belief supports one of our core objectives of sustainable lake protection. This scholarship is the outcome of the tragic loss of Megan E. Cook whose young life was taken far too soon by a drunk driver. Her parents served on the MLSA Board of Directors for many years and made numerous contributions to our organization. MLSA honors her memory each year by awarding a \$1,500 scholarship to a promising college student pursuing research or a degree involving inland lakes.

If you know of someone, or if you yourself are a candidate for this unique scholarship, please fill out this [application form](#). Application deadline is March 30, 2020. Please contact our office with any questions info@mlswa.org or [989-831-5100](tel:989-831-5100). A letter of award will be sent to the recipient and a formal plaque will be presented at the annual MLSA conference on May 1-2, 2020 at the Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville, Michigan.

Megan E. Cook was an intelligent and loved 17-year-old high school senior. As a bright and enthusiastic student, she brought a vibrancy of life to everyone. From Kindergarten through 12th grade her favorite subjects were Science and Health. As the youngest in a home-schooled family, she absorbed knowledge from listening to the older children's lessons. Thus, long before her "formal" school years began, she was constantly learning about the world around her. She also enjoyed reading all she could about mysteries and forensics. Her plan

was to study Science in preparation for a career in Forensics. She was thinking about using this type of degree on either a local or state forensics team in the medical field or on a police force.



MLSA Springs into the Future

by Melissa DeSimone, MLSA Executive Director

Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, Inc. is a non-profit, state-wide organization dedicated to the preservation, protection, and wise management of Michigan's vast treasure of inland lakes.

In support of our mission, MLSA continues to evolve—our leadership team and board have taken many actions in the past year to improve our focus and outreach:

- Expanded our monthly newsletter and have our Executive Director manage this resource to make sure it is closely coordinated with *The Michigan Riparian* and all other MLSA initiatives.
- Created a survey of MLSA members to determine the status and challenges of aquatic invasive species you face on your lakes.
- Expanded outreach to other like minded organizations such as the Michigan Environmental Council and Sierra Club.
- Continued our close relationship with attorney Cliff Bloom so that members continue to receive excellent legal insights in our magazine and at the conference.
- Improved our political outreach and networking, focused on important topics such as CLMP funding and voicing support or opposition for state bills to protect our waters and riparian rights, this is led by our new president and his Michigan state rep experience.
- Ran a highly successful 2019 annual conference that attracted more than 250 attendees, 20 vendors, secured media coverage and support from the governor.
- Made a number of changes to shifting the focus of MLSA from operational to education, water protection, and riparian rights.

We have plans for the future too - an upgraded website, more opportunities for localized meetings, and more! We hope you will continue to support us and send us your suggestions for new initiatives important to you.

Spring Riparian Magazine Coming Soon

Longtime partner and MLSA Attorney Cliff Bloom brings us three important topics to consider in the Spring 2020 issue of *The Michigan Riparian* magazine:

1. *Who Owns the Water in Michigan Lakes?*

2. *Trespass or Not?* "Given Michigan's generally relatively small lakefront parcels, long tradition of hunting and fishing and robust recreational opportunities, trespass issues arise with great frequency."
3. *Several Interesting Michigan Court of Appeals Decisions Regarding Standing, Injunctions, Deed Restrictions and Easement*

We appreciate everything Cliff has done for MLSA over the years, he is a tireless advocate for riparian rights and the waters of Michigan. These articles are exclusive to *The Michigan Riparian* magazine, please become a member of MLSA or subscribe to our magazine so you can read his latest contributions to our community in your magazine, hitting mailboxes soon!



Update: Possible New Controls on CAFOs

By: Paul J. Sniadecki, MLSA Board Director

The January 2020 MLSA eNewsletter reported on Michigan's EGLE (formerly DEQ) efforts to revise how the environmental risk to watersheds is evaluated relative to the spreading of livestock waste on farmland. EGLE states its proposed changes were developed with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) input. The proposed updates to the state's general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) were public noticed for comments during late 2019.

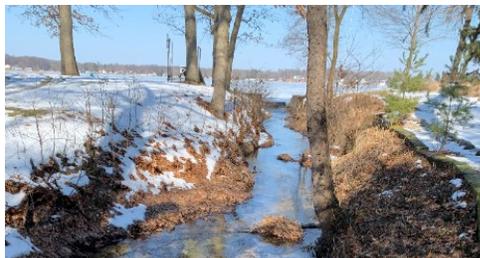
The last revisions to the NPDES Permit Program occurred in 2015, and apply to over 250 NPDES permitted CAFO farms in Michigan. Michigan is one of several states that have delegated authority from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue NPDES permits.

Farm industry advocates did not find the proposed changes to be favorable. While environmental advocates say the proposed requirements are important measures that will protect lakes/streams and drinking water quality as well as improve public access to permit records.

Recent contact with Megan McMahon, Environmental Quality Analyst for EGLE, revealed the draft regulations issued in October 2019 have been revised based on public comments and data received during the required public notice period. McMahon was not able to reveal the modifications made to the draft regulations because of process restrictions, but did advise the document is at the EPA for their final review. Analyst McMahon stated she believes the new official NPDES regulations are on schedule to be issued by April 1, 2020.

MLSA will continue to monitor the NPDES developments and keep our members advised. MLSA hopes that the new regulations retain the proposed ban on spreading CAFO manure in January, February and March, when the ground may be frozen and there is a higher risk of nutrients in the waste sliding into waterways rather than percolating into the soil. Some spreading could occur at the end of March with state regulatory approval. The other needed update is the phasing-in of a screening tool that would replace a simple soil test

for phosphorus levels when assessing the risk of manure application. The Michigan Phosphorus Risk Assessment (MPRA) screening tool would account for erosion, runoff potential, distance to surface water or a field edge, subsurface drainage, and vegetative buffers. MLSA has plans to provide a review of the new NPDES regulations for CAFOs at either our 2020 Annual Conference, or during one of our monthly ZOOM on-line meetings with members.

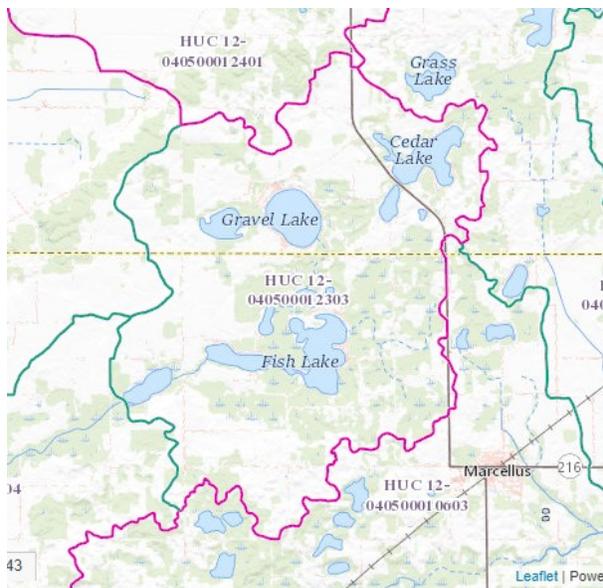
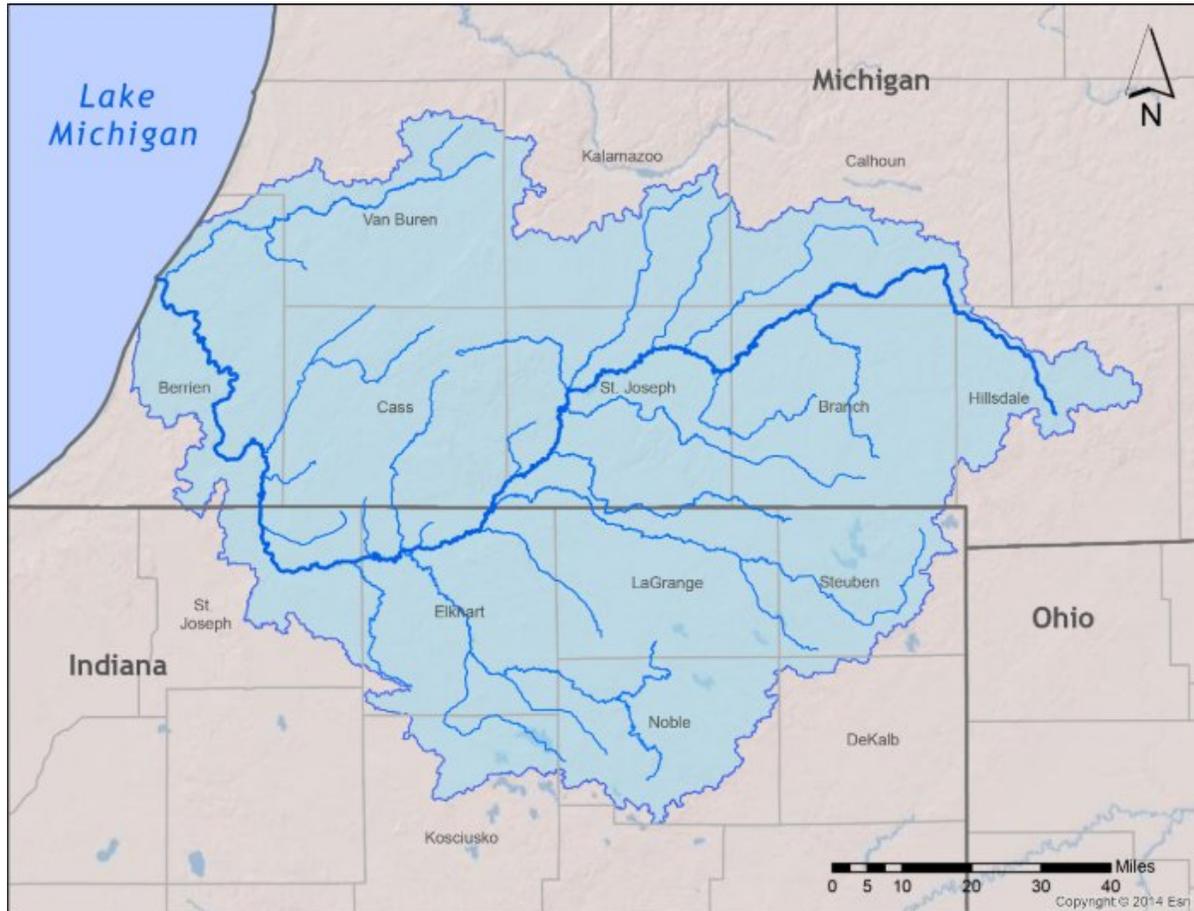


Getting to Know Your Water

By Melissa DeSimone, MLSA Executive Director

High water has been a hot topic around the Great Lakes but our inland lakes within Michigan are struggling with the water in even more ways than the coastlines. We have more water than we know what to do with. Do you know where the water around you comes from and where it goes? I am currently taking an amazing class through Purdue University called, Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy; there is a lot to know about the water flowing around us, how our actions effect that water, and there are many people who don't know their watershed or even what a watershed is - let's fix that!

Watersheds are broken up into areas based on where water is flowing from and where it is going to. I have been studying the St. Joseph River Basin Watershed which includes areas in Michigan and Indiana and then flows into Lake Michigan.

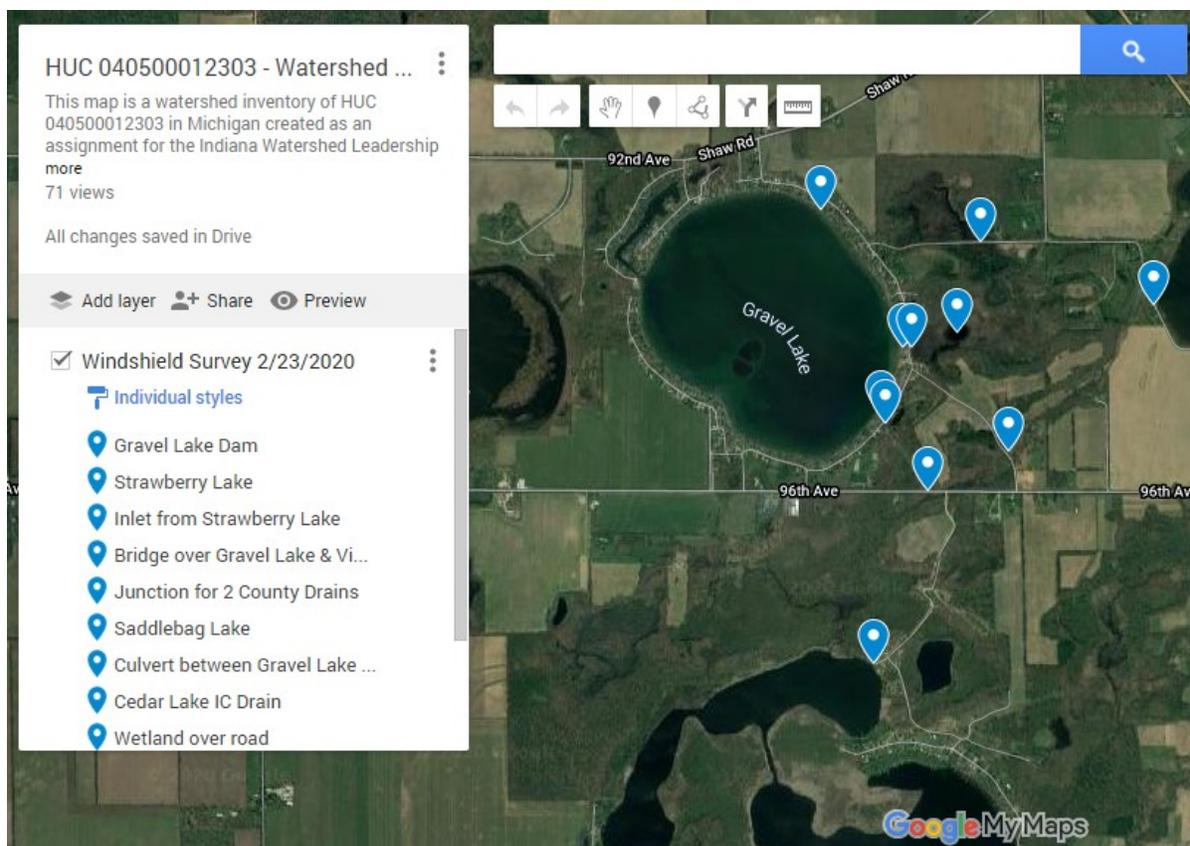


Gravel Lake, in southern Van Buren County for example, is in this watershed and can even be pinpointed to an area identified by a 12-digit hydrologic unit code also known as a HUC. (The greater St. Joe River Basin Watershed is identified by an 8 digit code, HUC 04050001, you can see in the map below that they added 4 more digits that indicate it is “zoomed in” on a specific area within the larger watershed).

Recently in my course of study, I created a Google map where I can record and share observations, photographs, and points of interest in my watershed. This is the beginning of what will be a full watershed inventory for my 12 digit HUC and you can see my progress so far at [this link](#).

I would encourage everyone to learn as much as they can about their watershed and an interesting place to start is with what is called a windshield survey, this is what you do...

- Start with a little research about the area you want to survey so you know where you want to look. Make some notes on a map (paper or digital) of any streams, drains, waterbodies, wetlands, etc. that you would like to take a look at. Satellite maps can be of great help but you may also want to check the drain maps provided by your county drain commission.
- Bring some supplies - you will want a camera for pictures of what you see as well as a tape measure for measuring depth and width of streams, maybe even a garbage bag in case you see some litter. You will certainly want to have paper and pencil and/or a digital device to record notes on your observations as well. I have linked the guide I used with my class here: <http://www.ecn.purdue.edu/SafeWater/watershed/inventoryf.pdf>. I used Chapter 4's worksheets and some sticky notes to jot down the observations that I added to the Google map of my inventory. To get a full picture of your watershed, you can use all the sections of this workbook to take detailed information.
- You will need to bring at least one other person with you, I am not advocating that you drive around, take pictures, and jot down observations at the same time!
- When you get home, create a new Google map, make pinpoints of the spots you visited, and add your notes and photographs to those spots. You could also do this using a paper map, spreadsheet, or diary of your observations. In the future, you can go back to observe the same locations to check for changes in water flow, erosion, pollution sources, etc.



- If you have a stream that particularly interests you, consider joining the [MiCorps: Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program](#), this program continues in 2020 even though the CLMP program is on hold until 2021.

We would love to see your inventories from around the state if you decide to do a project like this one. You can share your google map or even just thoughts on your experience with us via

email: info@mlswa.org or on social media.

If you are not interested or able to get out in the field, you could also do a lot of research right on your home computer. Many watersheds have groups and councils that help to manage, make decisions, and educate people in their area - attend a meeting if you can, reach out, get involved. You may be surprised what you learn about the water around you and what you might be able to contribute to the watershed management process.

High Water Summit's First Town Hall Webinar

Issued on March 19, 2020 by Nick Assendelft, EGLE Public Information Officer

A high water town hall webinar has been scheduled for March 26, the first community outreach event organized by the ad hoc Michigan High Water Action Team, which was formed during the Michigan High Water Coordinating Summit in February.

The webinar will feature staff from the Michigan Departments of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; Transportation; Natural Resources; Agriculture and Rural Development; and Insurance and Financial Services, as well as a representative from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. They will cover water level basics and current forecasts, statewide high water impacts, and resources for residents. Local officials, community leaders, and the general public will also learn about the ongoing government response. There also will be time for audience questions. The webinar will begin at 6 p.m. and [registration is now open](#).

Michigan's water levels are at their highest in more than two decades. Lakes Michigan and Huron have broken record high levels each month this year, and are expected to continue to do so. From Detroit's Belle Isle to the U.P.'s Keweenaw Peninsula, these exceptionally high water levels have caused millions of dollars in damage to private property and public infrastructure, including roads and state parks. Water levels are also impacting community water systems and causing other public health concerns.

The virtual town hall is the first in a series of high water town halls planned for the coming months, one of the outcomes of the High Water Summit. The summit brought together state, federal, and local officials, as well as representatives from tribal governments and groups that represent local units of government. Dates for future town halls will be announced later.

Along with organizing town halls, the multi-agency ad hoc Michigan High Water Action Team will also collaborate to:

- Identify available assets that can be marshaled in response to high water incidents.
- Coordinate communications across agencies and levels of government to ensure residents receive information in a timely, accurate, and consistent fashion.

For more information on high water levels and resources such as fact sheets, FAQs, a link to the [MiWaters permit portal](#), safety information, and resources for permit holders, go to Michigan.gov/HighWater.

Resilient Design Assistance in the Mid-Atlantic

Please join EPA's Office of Water for a free webcast on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 from 1:00 - 2:30 PM, EST -- [Register here](#)

In 2019, The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) worked directly with stakeholder communities to identify and facilitate policy and planning measures that promote green infrastructure and help address flood management and water quality needs. The Resilient Design Assistance Tool, developed as part of EPA's Water Technology and Innovation Initiative, is a design method that fosters multi-functional and distinct neighborhoods that provide communities with a variety of environmental benefits.

This approach was piloted in Seaford, DE, and Huntington, WV, to support and enhance existing community integrative hazard mitigation objectives and address flooding from extreme storm events. These pilot projects will serve as models for other interested communities. In this webcast, Jason Bernagros with EPA's Office of Research and Development, Matthew Konfirst and Samantha Rachko with EPA Region 3, and Breanna Shell, Planning Director for the City of Huntington, WV, will discuss how EPA is working with communities to advance the implementation of green infrastructure within hazard mitigation frameworks and promote sophisticated but feasible approaches to community resilience.



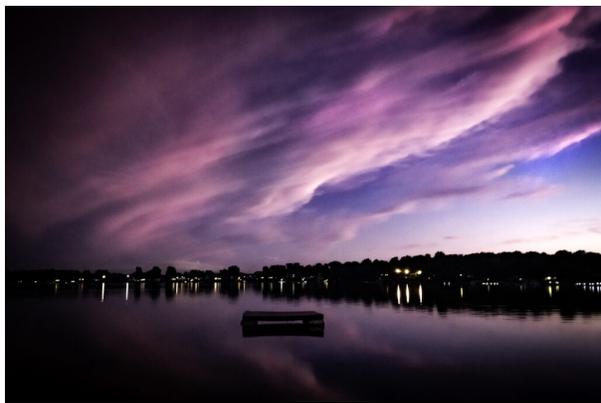
Shoreline Symposium

FRIDAY, APRIL 24TH, 9:00AM-3:00PM
LOCATION: PAW PAW DISTRICT LIBRARY
609 W MICHIGAN AVE, PAW PAW, MI 49079

Join us at the Shoreline Symposium! This free conference is for any waterfront property owner hoping to learn how to protect the aesthetics, recreation access, and property values of their lake, pond, or stream. See full agenda below.

 **BCKCISMA**
 Cooperative Watershed Sciences Management Area

 **SW x SW CORNERCISMA**



MLSA Online and Around the State

We want to feature you on Instagram and Twitter as @LakesStreams. Send your photos and videos to melissa.desimone@mlswa.org or tag us on Instagram so everyone will get a chance to see all the beautiful waters we love. Who knows? You may see

your favorite water right here in the newsletter!

Are you looking for a way to network with other lakes around Michigan? Join us for discussion on Facebook, we now have a MLSA member group! Follow the link: [Michigan Lakes and Streams Members](#), click [+ Join Group](#), answer the membership questions, and standby for approval. See you there!

Southeast Michigan

We are pleased to announce interest in adding a meeting in the southeast area! If you are also interested in attending a meeting near Lenawee, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties (just to name a few), please email info@mlswa.org or call [989-831-5100](tel:989-831-5100). We will continue to keep you updated.

Northeast Michigan

Several Lake Associations in Northeast lower Michigan have expressed interest in having MLSA Regional meeting in their area. MLSA has agreed to explore the level of interest. If you would like to participate in such a meeting contact MLSA at: info@mlswa.org. Additionally, Rex Vaughn, Cedar Lake, in Alcona/Iosco County, cell [810-516-6686](tel:810-516-6686), has agreed to facilitate questions and answers for lakes in his area. If there is a sustainable level of interest, MLSA will assist in coordinating Regional Meetings in Northeast Michigan.

Southwest Michigan

The next Region 3 meeting will be May 16, 2020 and all are invited to come join the discussion. You can contact Craig DeSimone (cucad4@hotmail.com) to be added to the region email list or for more information about the meeting.

South Central Michigan

There is not a meeting scheduled at this time but you may contact Dennis Babjack (dennisbabjack@gmail.com) for information about meetings in this area.

Your Region Here!

We want all members to have access to regional opportunities! If other parts of the state have a similar interest, please contact MLSA at: info@mlswa.org

We Moved!

Our goal for 2020 and beyond is to make sure your membership dollars are working harder for our mission. In an effort to reallocate funds for the important work we all believe in, we have closed our Stanton office. We can still be reached at (989) 831-5100 and info@mlswa.org but our new mailing address is now:

Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, Inc

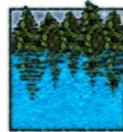
PO Box 19615

Kalamazoo, MI 49019

Wondering if you missed an opportunity to have an in-person meeting with us? Have no fear! Our board and staff will always be available to assist you and would be happy to set up a coffee shop meeting, a virtual meeting, or attend a larger meeting you may have planned throughout the year.

MLSA Membership

Ready to support our programs and help us improve the waters of Michigan? Click the button to become a member today!



Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society



Questions? Contact MLSA today [\(989\) 831-5100](tel:989-831-5100) or info@mlswa.org

Unsubscribe

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Michigan Lakes and Streams Association
Michigan Lakes & Streams Association, INC
PO Box 19615
Kalamazoo, MI 49019

