



MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER November 2007

www.mwai.org

MWA Mission Statement “This corporation is formed to protect, preserve and promote the wise use of inland waters – lakes, streams, rivers, creeks and the waters and bottomlands of the state of Michigan.

Presidents’ Corner

By Bob Frye

Dear Members & Friends,

Since June I have sent a number of MWA Emails Alerts (to subscribe email me at skibones@aol.com and put "protect lakes" in the subject field) regarding a number of subjects including efforts to defeat onerous road end bills and most recently, efforts to maintain funding for the DEQ Groundwater and Marina Permitting Programs. The response to these MWA Email alerts has been quite encouraging. Because of lobbying efforts and communications by concerned Riparians who received these Email Alerts the Road End Bills are stalled for now in the Senate (most likely they will come back). As for the funding of the DEQ Groundwater and Marina Permitting Programs more work needs to be done.

Our Lobbyists, Scofes and Associates are hopeful the following will strongly support the funding of the DEQ Groundwater and Marina Permitting Programs.

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| The Honorable Ed Gaffney | The Honorable Chris Ward | The Honorable Ron Jelinek |
| State Representative | State Representative | State Senator |
| State Capitol | State Capitol | State Capitol |
| P.O. Box 30014 | P.O. Box 30014 | P.O. Box 30036 |
| Lansing, MI 48909 | Lansing, MI 48909 | Lansing, MI 48909 |

Your letters, emails and phone calls to these above legislators and your own area legislators are needed. They need to hear from you, the property owners and voters, that if legislators were to cut the funding for these programs, it would be like opening the “Pandora's Box” of Lake and Groundwater evils.

To access your state representative: http://house.mi.gov/find_a_rep.asp

To access your state senator: <http://senate.michigan.gov/>

The Future of The Michigan Waterfront Alliance

At the last board meeting of the Michigan Lake and Stream Associations it was decided not to continue to help fund the Michigan Waterfront Alliance. For the MWA to operate we need at least \$22,000 a year. With ML&SA pulling the plug to the tune of \$10,000 a year we will be in the red very soon.

With a little over 300 current members the MWA board has voted to increase the individual member dues to \$50 a year and set the Lake Association Membership at \$100 a year. We have also solicited corporate sponsors and sent over 2100 letters to potential individual members. Some of the bigger lakes such as Higgins, Walloon, Burt and others have their own lobbyists. It will be up to the many Riparians of the lakes and streams that do not have representation in Lansing to step up to the plate.

If you are not currently a member, please join by filling out the membership application at the back of this newsletter. Also encourage your Lake or Stream Association to join.

Sincerely,
Bob Frye
Michigan Waterfront Alliance, President

Michigan Waterfront Alliance -Legislative Update - November 2007

By Nikki McCord

The Budget has been the major issue on everyone's minds this last month (October). And Scofes & Associates is proud to announce that Michigan finally has a budget in place. Thank you to everyone who participated in lobbying the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Scofes & Associates was approached by the Department to rally our members in support of an increase of fees for the marina operating program as well as the water discharge program. The position of MWA, was that the State would increase the fees to make sure that the Department had enough funds to monitor the illegal road ends as well as enforce the current laws. With Scofes & Associates' lobbying efforts and your letters to legislators, we were able to get our message across. As a result, the Governor signed the budget, including the Department of Environmental Quality's budget. The Governor wrote the following to the state House in reference to the Department of Environmental Quality Budget:

"Today I have signed Enrolled House Bill 4358, which provides \$370.8 million to support the fiscal year 2008 operations of the Department of Environmental Quality. I am, however, returning it to you because of one item of which I disapprove, pursuant to Article V, section 19, of the Michigan Constitution. The specific veto is contained in the attached copy of the bill, which has been filed with the Secretary of State.

I have vetoed section 1103, which earmarks \$250,000 for a real-time water quality monitoring grant for the St. Clair watershed. While I support real-time water quality monitoring, significant state resources have been appropriated in prior years for this purpose. The local units of government have agreed to use the unspent balance of fiscal year 2007 dollars to develop a local sustainable funding plan for real-time water quality monitoring

This bill supports the essential operations of the Department of Environmental Quality and I thank the Legislature for its cooperation in finalizing the fiscal year 2008 budget."

Scofes & Associates continues to work on and monitor issues for the MWA. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Nikki R. McCord
Scofes & Associates Consulting, Inc.
Director for Communications
and Research
535 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933



SUMMARY MWA MEETING(S)

MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE, INC. REGULAR BOARD MEETING Sept. 11, 2007 – Lansing, MI

Minutes (unapproved)

1. Meeting called to order at 10:40 am
Present were Brown, R. Carey, Frye, Highfield, Sharp, Tying, along with N. McCord from Scofes & Associates.
2. Minutes of regular Board meeting of May 2007 and Special meeting of April 2007 for Officer Election, were reviewed and were accepted as amended.
3. The Financial Report was reviewed. The Financial Report was accepted. Motion carried to direct Treasurer to cash CD's as required to pay bills.
4. B. Frye reported on the membership soliciting/growth project. The 2% response was lower than hoped. Costs associated to this effort were approved.
5. MWA Legislative Report was given by N. McCord. She stressed that members need to contact their Legislators and let them know they do not support HB 4463 and HB 4464 as they are bad bills. (see related article by Cliff Bloom on

MWA web site) She indicated that currently there is a lack of movement but that could change. A number of House & Senate Bills were reviewed for support and opposition.

6. P. Tying reviewed a letter she created to solicit Corporate Sponsorship in MWA. This letter along information attached by Scofes & Associates was presented in motion and carried for MWA to pursue Corporate Sponsorship.
7. B. Frye and the Board discussed the financial position of MWA. We reviewed our (MWA) woes with S. Scofes. He offered to discuss this issue with ML&SA. R. Carey will contact ML&SA with this request. There was further discussion on raising MWA dues and contacting lake associations. Two (2) subsequent motions on raising individual dues to \$50 and Lake Association membership at \$100 regardless of size carried unanimously.
8. Next meeting was set for December 4, 2007 at 10:30am.
9. Meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm.

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For more information, contact Editor Richard Brown

