



MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE

NEWSLETTER

November 2008

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 Michigan Waterfront Alliance Individual and Lake Association Members,

The election is over and we have our work cut out for us. I think more than ever the Riparians of Michigan need solid representation in State Government.

So far we have been successful in preventing the onerous road end bills from being voted on in the senate. Even though these bills will expire at the end of this session, I am sure they will be resurrected in the next term. With your support by communicating with your representatives we must defeat these bills when they get reintroduced in the house in the next term.

Not only is your Michigan Waterfront Alliance involved in Lobbying we are active in the courts from time to time. Right now we are in the process of filing an Amicus brief at the Appellate Court in a Lake Charlevoix case. The case involves riparian rights in connection with a platted and accepted roadway that runs along the shoreline of Lake Charlevoix. The circuit court ruled that “first tier” lot owners within the plat that are separated from the lake by the subject roadway are not riparian owners. If this ruling stands it would have very serious implications for a great many of Michigan’s inland lakes.

Because of the almost monthly arrival of more and more exotic species that threaten our Lakes and Streams, the MWA board is considering a lobbying strategy to bring about an effective curtailment of their spread. The Wisconsin model has been much more successful than what we have in Michigan. Board member Bill Sharp has just attended this seminar: “Exotic Species: Regional and Local Management will feature guest speaker: John J. Magnuson, Professor Emeritus, Center of Limnology, University of Wisconsin”. Bill will be reporting what he learned to the MWA board at the December meeting.

I would like to thank Pearl Bonnell for her years spent serving as the MWA Treasurer and membership coordinator. At the April 2008 Annual meeting Ed Highfield was elected as Treasure and Richard Brown was named chair of the membership committee.

Thank you for your continued support,

Bob Frye
Michigan Waterfront Alliance, President

Michigan Waterfront Alliance -Legislative Update - November 2008

By Scofes & Associates Consulting, Inc.

The Shape of an Election

By Teresa L. Edwards

As many of you know, I am among one of the newest editions to Scofes & Associates Consulting Inc., and I have been assigned to work with you on issues that affect the Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA). Furthermore, I had the pleasure of meeting with the Alliance Board in August. It was at that meeting that I introduced myself your group and where we opened a dialogue up about what future steps should be taken in order to further the organization's agenda.

Furthering MWA's legislative agenda is more crucial now than ever before given the fact that we are in the wake of electing a new president and members to join the Michigan Legislature, the House of Representatives more specially. In January 2009 at minimum, 45 new faces, with new ideas, and new agendas will walk the halls of our capitol, having little or no knowledge of who MWA is or what issues we stand on. To stay ahead of the game, I propose that a strategic plan be put in place in order to achieve positive outcomes. A strategic plan is a plan that critically assesses where the organization is currently, where it wants to go, and establishes a vehicle that will achieve a desirable end, in spite of external factors that could pose possible threats.

With that said, in the last few months we have seen the presidential race take metamorphic form as Obama and McCain continue to battle it out to become the next Commander and Chief. Here in Michigan, we see that a national race is rapidly shaping our political landscape. Furthermore, Obama continuing to be the front runner in Michigan and U.S. Senator Carl Levin maintaining his seat therefore making it a strong possibility that the Democrats will be the majority in D.C. is significant.

Continuing along those same lines, the politico's of Michigan state government believe that the lead Obama has in Michigan over McCain may be indicative of the party makeup of the 95th legislature. What seemed to be safe republican seats have now become vulnerable after the McCain campaign decided to pull completely out of Michigan. The McCain decision came as a shock not only to his democratic counterparts but to his republican colleagues here in Michigan. To this end, many question what John McCain's withdrawal from Michigan is worth to the Democrats. To date, there seems to a consensus, speculation of course, that the democrats will gain a couple of seats, perhaps one congressional seat, a pickup or two on the state educational boards and potentially dozens of local seats. To go a step further, it could also mean that the Michigan state senate in 2010 will also have the possibility of shifting power from the republican-controlled held senate to a democratic one. If the assertion is correct, that a national election will more than likely determine what the 95th legislature looks like, we must then think of how this change will affect MWA's legislative agenda.

It is imperative as we move forward into the next legislative session that we critically assess and strategize on how we will move MWA's legislative agenda despite the changes that will occur. As your lobbyist I will help navigate you through the political and legislative confines, so that we can successfully execute our plan which is the continuance of protecting our lakes, rivers and streams through legislative action.

Whether we will "Vote for Change" or put our "Country First", the shape of an election may impact our state legislative body, but MWA with its' strategic plan in hand will be ready for combat. I look forward to working with each and every one of you.

Lake Michigan still vulnerable to ferocious invaders

BY TINA LAM . FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER . November 5, 2008

Nearly a year after Congress passed \$9 million in funding to complete and turn on a new electric barrier to keep ferocious Asian carp from getting into Lake Michigan; the barrier is still not operating.

And Great Lakes governors are not happy about it.

The leaders of the eight Great Lakes states sent a letter Friday to the secretaries of defense and homeland security criticizing the delays.

The legendary fish can grow to 4 feet long and 100 pounds. They have so far been stopped from moving up the Illinois River and into Lake Michigan by a temporary electric barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. But that barrier is small and weak and was never meant to be permanent. Construction started in 2004 on a permanent barrier, but its operation has been held up because of safety concerns about the electrified water.

They want a work plan and timeline for when the barrier will begin operating.

"Our region and our nation cannot afford continued delay," said the letter, signed by Gov. Jim Doyle of Wisconsin on behalf of the other governors. A spokesman for Doyle said Tuesday there has been no response yet.

Joel Brammeier, vice president for policy of the Alliance for the Great Lakes, said that safety testing has dragged on for two years. "I think it's becoming clear there's a lack of will to get this project completed."

Asian carp can out compete native fish for food and are dangerous to boaters because they're heavy and can leap 6 feet in the air. Because they are voracious eaters and reproducers, they could destroy the Great Lakes' \$4.5-billion commercial and sports fishing industries, Brammeier said.

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

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

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For more information, contact Editor Richard Brown

The Future of The Michigan Waterfront Alliance

The MWA board adjusted their dues structure in December of 2007. We have also solicited corporate sponsors and sent over 2100 letters to potential individual members. 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".

Almost a year ago MWA met with the Michigan Lake and Stream Associations Executive committee, they decided to help fund the Michigan Waterfront Alliance for a portion of the fiscal year. For the MWA to operate we estimated our annual budget to be about \$22,000 a year. With some ML&SA assistance, reduced lobbyist activity, new members (individuals, lake associations and corporate sponsors), we are planning for an improved financial position very soon.

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.

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



SUMMARY MWA MEETING(S)

**MICHIGAN WATERFRONT
ALLIANCE, INC.
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Sep. 22, 2008 – Lansing, MI**

Minutes (unapproved)

1. Meeting called to order at 10:0 am Present were Bonnell, Brown, R. Carey, Frye, Highfield, Sharp, Tynning, Winne, along with T. Edwards and G. Scofes Excused was W. Carey.
2. Minutes of regular Board meeting of March 11 and April 26, 2008, were reviewed and accepted.
3. The Financial Report was accepted as presented. Pearl reported that MLSA would with pledged assistance to MWA
4. B. Frye indicated his appreciation on the efforts of Highfield and Brown with their respective functions. Theresa Edwards was introduced as the Scofes & Assoc. representative.

5. Legislative Reports were given on "Front Burner" and Up and Coming issues.
6. MLSA Reports were given by Bonnell and Winne.
7. B. Sharp reported that a group on Higgins Lake may apply for a Marina permit as a means to bypass current road end laws.
8. Membership Committee reported on current status. The late August mailing for membership has had an approximate return of 8-10%.
9. Payment of bills was reviewed and payment was authorized.
10. MWA Newsletter –Change of mailing and distribution was discussed. A newsletter from MWA (vs combined with MLSA due to their changes) will be mailed to our members in November. Articles will be appreciated. A budget for Newsletter and Riparian advertising was reviewed and approved.
11. Future major MWA issues were discussed and a priority given.
12. Next meeting set for December 3, 2008, 10:00am in Lansing, MI.
13. Meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm

**MICHIGAN WATERFRONT
ALLIANCE,
ONLY THROUGH
YOUR ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT,
IS YOUR LAKE PROTECTED.**

**Your Support Does
Make a difference!**

It's an investment that pays off!
Lobbyists are NOT FREE, but annual membership in MWA is VERY CHEAP; it costs just \$50 a year. Think of it as an insurance policy against the erosion of the value of your riparian rights of your valuable property.

MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 346, Three Rivers, Michigan 49093
Phone (269) 273-8200 Fax (269)273-2919

Email: mwai@mlswa.org

WEB SITE: www.mwai.org

Michigan Waterfront Alliance

Board of Directors:

Officers:

President **Robert Frye** Ph 989-821-6661

Email: skibones@aol.com

Vice President **Richard Brown** Ph 810-629-5964

Email: RLSBrown@prodigy.net

Secretary **Roger Carey** Ph 989-588-9538

Email: mccarey55@earthlink.net

Treasurer **Ed Highfield** Ph 231-972-2190

Email: edhelenhighfield@centurytel.net

Directors:

Pearl Bonnell Ph 989-257-3583

Email: pbonnell@mlswa.org

Don Winne

Ph (H) 616-244-5336

Ph(W) 626-273-8200

William Carey Ph 989-348-5232

Email: wlc@freeway.net

Bill Sharp Ph 517-332-4255

Email: aewbsharp@sbcglobal.net

Pam Tying PH 517-647-2294

Email: tyningP@progressiveae.com



Membership Application

(Dues for 2009 are due January 2009)

The annual dues for individual membership In Michigan Waterfront Alliance are \$50. Lake Association Membership is \$100. Commercial and Individual Donations Are Appreciated.

Please Print:

_____ () _____ () _____
 Last Name First Name Day Phone Evening Phone

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____
 Street Address City State Zip Code Email Address

_____ _____ _____
 County Township Lake or Stream Association if established

Make Checks payable to: **Michigan Waterfront Alliance**
 Mail to: **MWA, P.O. Box 369**
Fenton, MI 48430

Nov 2008