

## MWA Legislative Issues Update – June 2018

The Legislature will be wrapping up budget work in June, in preparation for summer recess and the upcoming election season. Following is an update with respect to items of particular interest to the Michigan Waterfront Alliance.

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund & State Parks Endowment Fund changes:

Senate Bills 763, 931, and 932 and Senate Joint Resolution O would allow more flexibility for the expenditure of Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and Michigan State Parks Endowment Fund dollars. Of particular interest to MWA is new language allowing limited funds from the state parks endowment fund to be utilized for prevention of aquatic invasive species and one-time management of aquatic invasive species in connection with local public recreation projects.

While the language is not perfect, it reflects a legislative compromise and a first step towards providing state funding and assistance for AIS management on inland lakes and streams. As the proposed changes would amend the Michigan Constitution, 2/3 approval by both the House and Senate is necessary in order to place the changes on the August primary election ballot for voter approval. The Senate has approved the legislation, but it faces an uncertain future in the House.

MWA-DNR AIS Task Force:

MWA continues to participate in a joint AIS task force with the DNR, and we are making progress towards a number of mutual goals including greater communication and coordination going forward.

CLMP Update:

MWA has been working in cooperation with ML&SA advocating for continued funding of the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) in the DEQ budget. Legislators have noted that they are hearing more support and feedback for the CLMP program than for any other program currently funded in the Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI), a environmental cleanup bonding proposal passed by Michigan votes in 1998.

As CMI funding is running out, CLMP and other programs are now on the chopping block unless the Legislature finds a new funding source for these types or programs, either from a dedicated revenue stream or via funding from the state General Fund. As next year's state budget nears completion, we should know more about the future of CLMP sometime over the next two weeks. Thank you to all MWA members who have taken time to email or call your legislators to share your opinion about the importance of this program, you are making a difference!

August Primary Election

Finally, as the Legislature prepares to adjourn for the summer, MWA wants to remind members of the importance of getting to know state and local candidates in preparation for the August primary election. This year we will see a larger turnover of state elected officials than normal due to term limits, and in many areas of the state, the primary election essentially decides the general election due to the partisan base numbers of many legislative districts.

MWA encourages you to reach out to candidates running for the Legislature to educate them about issues of importance to us, as the primary is less than three months away.

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