

2022: ISSUE 3

## 2022 Grantees

Freshwater Future is proud to support the following organizations:

### Spring Project Grants (\$31,374 Total Awarded)

Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative  
Coalition to SAVE the Menominee River  
Environment North  
Junction Creek Stewardship Committee  
Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition  
Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association  
WaterLegacy  
Wellington Water Watchers  
West Grand Boulevard Collaborative

### Communication Grants (\$135,000 Total Awarded)

Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities  
Michigan Environmental Council  
Michigan Radio  
Minnesota Environmental Partnership  
Wisdom Institute

### Voice Builder Grants (\$41,000 Total Awarded)

Kettle Lakes Association  
Water Walkers  
Wisdom Institute

### Special Opportunity Grants (\$34,449 Total Awarded)

Benton Harbor Water Council  
Evergreen Community Development Initiative  
Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation  
WaterLegacy  
Benton Harbor Water Council  
Flint Community Lab  
Project NEED Foundation  
Michigan Coalition Against Tar Sands

## REFLECTING ON THE CLEAN WATER ACT AND LOOKING TOWARD A FUTURE WITH STRONG PROTECTIONS FOR OUR WATERS

In the month of October, the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the U.S. Clean Water Act provided a chance to reflect on the landmark law. What exactly did the Clean Water Act change about how we care for our water? The biggest successes of the Clean Water Act are that it required permits for all pollutant discharges into navigable waters and set standards for sewage and pollution discharges. It also required states to monitor and report water quality of surface waters to the federal U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Importantly, the Act contributed historic investments of more than one trillion dollars to drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, particularly in the first 30 years of its existence.

Community-based organizations that step up to ensure the Clean Water Act and other laws and regulations are enforced make a difference. Without their efforts to monitor and review industrial activities, wetland permits, pollutant discharges and many other land use decisions, the protection of our waters wouldn't happen.

One of the founding tenets of Freshwater Future has always been the recognition and value of community action to protect our water –lakes, rivers, wetlands, shorelines, drinking water and groundwater. Since 1996, we have supported people working on threats to water by providing technical support, funding, tools, and connections. Through our grants programs, Freshwater Future has provided over \$5.1 million for over 1300 projects, many of which focused on the enforcement of environmental regulations.



Our community partners, the Flint Community Lab provides STEM opportunities and trains student citizen scientists.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

In this issue of Freshwater Voices, we are highlighting the work of some of our community partners and the work they are doing to prevent the destruction or contamination of waters in the Great Lakes region. Every day, groups like those featured on the following pages inspire us and energize us to improve and expand our support to get the on-the-ground changes needed to solve water issues.





## Environment North Nuclear Free North

## SPRING PROJECT GRANT SPOTLIGHT:

Over seven million used waste nuclear fuel bundles are proposed to be transported to a storage location in Northwestern Ontario. Concerns around the threat to waters spurred Environment North in Canada to work on improving decision making around the safe transportation and handling of nuclear waste. The group will educate the public and encourage a discussion with decision makers concerning proper stewardship of nuclear energy production and waste management including the need for long term monitoring of the waste.

## SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT SPOTLIGHT:

### WaterLegacy - Support for Fond du Lac Band Objection to Federal Mining Permit

The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa has filed a Clean Water Act objection to the PolyMet copper-nickel mine federal water pollution permit, which is located near Lake Superior. In support of this objection as a downstream “state”, WaterLegacy is creating action alerts, organizing public comments, providing honoraria to citizen experts, and providing scientific and technical comments to support the Band’s position that the Army Corps must revoke and not reissue the PolyMet federal wetlands destruction permit. This process is critical to protect the environmental health and water quality in the Lake Superior Basin as well as to set precedent for tribal rights and sovereignty.

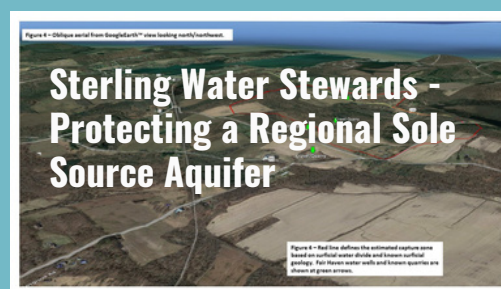


## COMMUNICATIONS GRANT SPOTLIGHT:

### Clean Wisconsin - Natural Climate Solutions

Clean Wisconsin will use marketing expertise from the Freshwater Future Communications Technical Assistance Grant to create a Natural Climate Solutions campaign that engages audiences across the state. Clean Wisconsin will learn which messages resonate best and build a campaign designed to meet those audiences where they are. Reducing carbon emissions and using more nature-based solutions to combat climate impacts are important for protecting Wisconsin’s waterways. With the help of this grant, Clean Wisconsin will engage key audiences to unlock the potential of nature-based action to address the crisis of climate change.

## FALL PROJECT GRANT SPOTLIGHT:



A proposed bottling plant located in the recharge area of the sole source aquifer that supplies drinking water to the Village of Fair Haven and portions of the rural Town of Sterling in New York could threaten both the supply and quality of the communities’ public water. Additionally, rural landowners in the township could experience threats to their well water from potential bulk water extraction or other land use activities on adjacent land. The grant will assist the group to advocate for wellhead protection in the recharge area and tools to prevent damage to the aquifer from extraction or toxins.



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## VOICE BUILDER GRANTS SPOTLIGHT:

### Wisdom Institute - Passing the Torch, Preserving the Flame

Wisdom Institute is training at least ten elder Black women who will be deployed as Ambassadors on water policy in Detroit. The Ambassadors will assist the Wisdom Institute in their work for a deep, collective stand for water as a human right, a plan for affordability and gender just policy-centered governance in Detroit.

Strategic communications support through the grant will assist with messaging, outreach, social media, website design and database building.



# THANK YOU to

## All of Our Donors

from August 1st, 2022  
through October 31st, 2022

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Park Foundation

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### ORGANIZATIONS

Aquachain Foundation  
Between the Waters  
Blue Bayfield  
Concerned Citizens of Big Bay  
Elk Skegemog Lakes Association  
Friends of Euclid Creek  
Friends of the Pentwater River Watershed  
Junction Creek Stewardship Committee  
Lake Erie Waterkeeper  
Michigan Coalition Against Tar Sands  
Naturally Superior Adventures  
New Image Life Skills Academy Inc  
North End Woodward Community Coalition  
Paradise Lake Association  
Reform Gravel Mining Coalition  
Religious Coalition For the Great Lakes  
Saginaw Community Alliance for the People  
Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Alliance  
Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association  
Sterling Water Stewards  
Stewardship Network  
Superior Rivers Watershed Association  
White River Watershed Partnership  
Wisdom Institute  
Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve

### WATER IS LIFE FESTIVAL

Blissfest Music Organization  
Peggy Harp  
Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Patawatomi  
Odawa Casino Resort  
We The People of Michigan

### PROJECT NEED FOUNDATION

One Love Global

### VOLUNTEERS

Nancy Staley  
Avery Schuman

### CORPORATE PARTNERS:



## IN MEMORY OF RUTH OGAWA

Freshwater Future lost a long-time supporter and a trailblazing champion of the Great Lakes with the passing of Ruth OGawa on October 6, 2022. Earlier this year, we were fortunate to celebrate Ruth's accomplishments by honoring her with a Freshwater Future Hero award. Thanks to Ruth's vision, advocacy, and hard work, she nurtured many organizations and was instrumental in environmental protection and addressing social issues in Northern Michigan and throughout the Great Lakes Region. Ruth's family reflects on her dedication, "Ruth devoted her life to caring for the environment, the underserved and unhoused. She made things happen that few imagined possible. She was a big picture thinker and a tireless doer." Ruth and her family have requested memorial gifts to be directed to Freshwater Future along with APS Foundation in Albuquerque, NM.

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## Give the Gift of Water!



**Do you have someone on your holiday list that already has it all?**

Why not make a donation in honor of family and friends to Freshwater Future this holiday season. The recipient gets to be a part of helping more people and communities in the Great Lakes Region access clean and safe water. Freshwater Future will also send a greeting card acknowledging your gift.

Just scan the code to link to our online donation page or go to [freshwaterfuture.org](http://freshwaterfuture.org) and click on the donate button. Thank you!



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