



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates is your trusted advisor and advocate for Minnesota's lake and river communities.



Tracking legislation, promoting good science and sending media messages is a full time job. We do this work so you don't have to.

From Executive Director Jeff Forester



Greetings,

2022 was wonderful. After years of Zoom, I was able to attend dozens of lake association meetings in person. I will never again take our ability to meet together for granted. Seeing your energy and commitment to protecting your lakes gives me energy and hope.

I am also humbled and grateful for the wonderful outpouring of support. We began our third quarter last year \$30,000 under budget. High prices, an onslaught of campaign contribution requests, and press of current events had depressed both membership renewals and levels of contributions. This effect was true across the nonprofit world. We reached out and shared this problem with you and asked for your help. You met this challenge and contributed \$31,230 in the final quarter, donating \$20,000 in the month of December alone.

Keeping up with Issues Takes Time

We are all so busy we can't stay up on all the issues facing our lakes and rivers today. It is almost a full time job to attend the many seminars, symposiums and public policy forums about water that occur throughout the year. Few among us have the time (or appetite) to engage in our political process. Who can commit to reading all of the bills that are introduced, track which ones get a hearing, which ones don't and either support or lobby against these proposals as they make their way through the legislative process?

Lakes cannot protect themselves. Lakes cannot advocate for what they need. Our lake homes or cabins are a significant financial investment for each of us. They are also the places where we invest ourselves emotionally, making family memories that last generations. Our investment in these places needs our advocacy.

MLR does this work so that you do not have to do it. MLR has your back.

As one long time member, John Lunde, from Kabekona Lake said to me recently, *"You're the ones that are in there lobbying to protect our investment. Even a 1/10th of 1% of the value of my place as a membership contribution is well worth the price."*

Trends are Troubling

The threats to our lakes and lake heritage continue to grow. During the many policy meetings, showcases, seminars and presentations I attend, I hear much about the problems facing our state's waters. It would be easy to despair:

- AIS continue to spread and new AIS are inbound from other states,
- Loons are dying from lead poisoning, entanglement in discarded fishing line, or killed as chicks when they are washed out of their nests by boat wakes,

- Fishery biomass is declining despite intensive fish stocking programs,
- Algae blooms are increasing in duration, intensity, distribution and scale,
- Poor shoreline development continues, with more than half the state's shoreline compromised,
- Concentrated Animal Feedlot Operations (CAFOs) are moving into Minnesota, largely due to clean water supplies. In 2018, Minnesota became the third largest hog producing state. Today Minnesota is second only behind Iowa, and is quickly closing the gap. These operations generate hundreds of thousands of gallons of manure. In 2020, 67% of Iowa's surface waters were impaired.
- In 2018, the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) listed 40% of MN's surface water as impaired. Today the MPCA lists 56% of Minnesota's waters as impaired.

The trends are troubling.

Still I do not despair.

Powerful Advocacy Brings Solutions

I have hope because there are solutions. Each solution will run into opposition by highly organized interest groups. They value lake access over preventing AIS spread, value chemically intensive industrialized farming practices over clean water and algae blooms, put property tax base and development over lake ecology and affordability of lake places. These interests hire lobbyists to block progress on lake solutions. MLR testifies and lobbies against them every year on almost every bill.

Still I have hope for two reasons:

1. We are right. The facts support our positions.
2. There are 300,000 lake home and cabin owners in Minnesota.

In order to protect the lakes we love from AIS, runoff pollution, poor development, destructive boater behavior and other threats, we must build an advocacy force equal to this moment.

With bigger numbers we can push back on these special interests. MLR has the experience and capacity to mount a vigorous campaign that is worthy of Minnesota's iconic lakes.

The Work We Need to Do

MLR can do this work so you don't have to. The only thing we need is to build a membership base large enough to support the work it will take:

- Media campaign to educate the public about lake issues and frame solutions,
- Organizer to support and coordinate local groups, advocacy, and programs,
- Resource professional to support local group's on-the-ground projects and efforts,
- Increased lobbying hours,
- Event planning to bring lake association leaders, academics, elected officials and agency staff together regularly to share knowledge and build relationships,
- Increased services like detailed property tax information for specific lakes, detailed water quality analysis, aquatic plant inventories, and watershed hydrological studies for instance.

Continued on Page 11

MLR's Lake Based Agenda for 2023

Historic Challenges and Opportunities

All advocacy work occurs within a context, and this legislative session has both historic challenges and unique opportunities.

In 2022, most legislators were focused on the once a decade process of redistricting. When the MN Supreme Court committee released the new map of MN's legislative districts, a shuffling of the political process began.

In the Minnesota House, 35% of the legislators are new to the Minnesota House.

In the Minnesota Senate, 36% of the Senators have never served in the Senate before.

New legislators and their staff will have to learn all of the systems at the legislature as well as the nuanced rules that guide our legislative process.

As former legislator Darby Nelson said, ***"From practical experience I can tell you that legislators lead very, very busy lives. They can't know everything about everything. That's where lobbyists and constituents play very, very important roles."***

Added to this, MN has a \$17 billion budget surplus. Minnesota's government spending had fallen from \$53 billion to \$51 billion for the biennium. At the same time revenues from sales taxes and federal funding from the pandemic boosted the state's coffers.



MLR members awarded Senator Carrie Ruud the 2022 Lake Advocate Award for her years of advocacy for clean and healthy waters.

The state has seen budget surpluses before, but the scale of this surplus is vastly different. For comparison, the next largest budget surplus ever reported was \$4.05 billion in February 1999, without adjusting for inflation. With so much money on the line, hundreds of special interests have increased their lobbying budgets and are working to secure a portion of that money for their clients.

MLR, due to budget constraints, is not able to increase our lobbying budget. That is a significant challenge. But, MLR has also been a reliable presence at the capitol, has a good reputation, and represents actual constituents instead of clients. We worked hard over the summer to connect with candidates and have many strong relationships with legislative leaders. Experience, authenticity, consistency and reliability are our advantages.

MLR's Legislative Agenda

The following legislative agenda is broad and very long and in no way complete. It is unlikely that many of these priorities will be addressed in the next legislative session, but this is a long term advocacy effort, the following list represents a starting point.

Taxes

- Solution for market driven assessment and subsequent property tax increases on riparian properties,
- Removal of Seasonal Recreational property from State General Tax,
- Sustainable Shoreline Incentive Act (SSIA) to provide an incentive for good shoreline management,
- Require assessors to include the lost land value following a Conservation Easement.
- Address short term rental language.

AIS

- Require DNR to work with local governmental units, lake associations and county resource managers to draft and implement a Five-Year Comprehensive Statewide AIS Plan.
- Increase AIS fines,
- Ability to order certified decontamination of a boat in violation before they launch even if the decon unit is not on-site,
- Upgrade boat access sites to address Clean, Drain, Dry Best Practices (including boat cleaning or decontamination equipment).

Boating Wakes and Prop Thrust Impacts on Lake Ecology

- Watercraft Operators training and Certification program - education created by working group,
- Continued research by St. Anthony Falls Lab, University of Minnesota into boating impacts on lake ecology.

Funding

- Lake Association Management Grants - \$1.4 million annually
- Stop Starry funding increase to cover new starry lakes - (LCCMR)
- Support for Lake Steward efforts,
- MAISRC - needs reliable funding for day-to-day operations.

Angling Issues

- Keep It Clean - provide dumpsters at ice fishing landings for waste. Increased training and messaging. Ban any external garbage/bags on the ice.
- Rules for so-called rough fish, including big mouth buffalo.
- Lead fishing tackle



Lake Steward Pilot A Success

The sources and reasons for water degradation are both plentiful and complex, but degraded shoreline is a contributor. If we want to improve water, we must improve land. Unfortunately, the trends are towards more

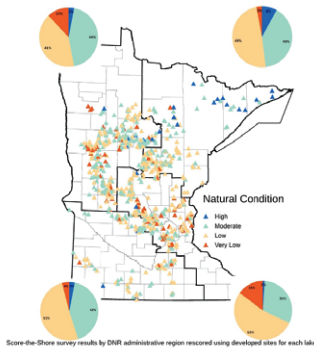
development of shoreline. Minnesota has already lost approximately half our natural shorelines. **This is a problem that we can address.**

The state's agencies, like the MN DNR, are very limited in their capacity. The Shoreland Management Act of 1969 set the minimum standards for the counties. Very little has changed since then, and even these standards are often undone by the local variance process.

Lakeshore Buffers –

We've lost 40-50% of our natural lakeshores

If we fail to protect these natural shorelands, we will lose lake water quality, and maybe even the ability to swim and recreate in our lakes



In 2020, Minnesota's counties issued 8,846 land use permits on shoreline property. That was 6,797 higher than in 2019. For comparison, in 2012 there were 1,207 permits issued for new development on undeveloped shoreline lots. In 2020 there were 2,220 permits issued for new development on shoreline lots. In 2020 the counties created 1,187 new shoreland lots, the majority by lot splits. This is the highest number since 2012.

The best way to protect shorelines and water quality is for citizens to better manage the shorelines in their care. Top down laws, regulations or permits will not meet the increasing need.

When MLR learned of Gull Lake's [Lake Steward](#) program we saw an opportunity to have a statewide impact in reducing nutrient pollution in our lakes and rivers. Working with the Gull Lake Association, we took the Lake Steward program statewide. In 2021, COVID 19 limited the statewide rollout of Lake Steward, but in 2022 we saw remarkable growth of Lake Steward.

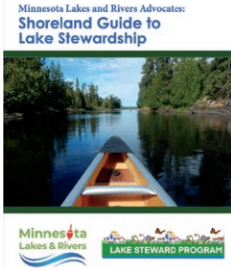
Lake Steward is a partial solution to reducing nutrient loading, particularly phosphorus, into our lakes and rivers. Reducing phosphorus will reduce excessive aquatic plant growth and algae blooms

This is because phosphorus is a "limiting" nutrient in Minnesota. Phosphorus exists in limited amounts in Minnesota's soils and lakes, and so restricts the growth of plants, including algae, in our ecosystems. Add more phosphorus to a lake and plants and algae will respond quickly. Because rainwater and snowmelt can carry phosphorus from soils and impermeable surfaces into lakes and rivers, if a shoreline property owner reduces runoff on their property they can have a significant impact on both excessive aquatic plant growth and frequency and intensity of algae blooms in the lakes they love.

Consider that:

- 1 lb. of phosphorus produces 500 lbs. of algae in a lake.
- "Lawn to Lake" lots contribute about 0.2 lbs of phosphorus/lot per summer, producing about 100 lbs of algae. The cumulative effect is significant. On a lake with 100 lawn to lake lots, this results in about 10,000 lbs of algae.

- Lake Steward management practices can reduce phosphorus runoff to 0.03 lbs per lot, or 15 lbs of algae. Cumulatively a lake that converts 100 lots to Lake Steward can reduce algae production from 10,000 lbs to 1,500 lbs.



Lake Steward helps a lake association volunteer learn how to assess the amount of phosphorus a lot is contributing to the lake. [MLR's Shoreland Guide to Lake Stewardship](#), available on Amazon, is a solid how-to manual for shoreland owners who want to help protect water quality.

One MLR member wrote about the [Shoreland Guide to Lake Stewardship](#), "Well written and easy to understand and implement. We bought 10 for our lake association and gave them away. Heard great reviews from those who got one and they plan on implementing the shoreline ideas on their property."

We created a phone-based App that leads evaluators through the process and captures the data they collect, giving us a statewide database of shoreline conditions.

MLR has been meeting with state policy makers regarding shoreland protection, and funding mechanisms or policies that will drive changes to shoreland management and improve water quality.

Lake Steward Program had significant growth in 2022

In 2022 Lake Steward experienced remarkable growth and has received a great deal of attention from policy makers. State shoreland standards have not been updated since the late 1960s.

- 259 Lake Steward quizzes taken,
- 238 site visits,
- 19 lake associations engaged,
- 6.3 Miles of shoreline impacted,
- A potential of 28,209 lbs. of phosphorus sequestered on shore,
- More than 14 tons of algae prevented,
- More than 1 mile of shoreline restored with more than 1 mile in the planning stages of restoration.

MLR will work to expand the Lake Steward program to more lake associations. Many who carried the Lake Steward program last season reported that Lake Steward not only increased awareness and further education, but brought new members into the lake association.

"I am hopeful that in 2023, MLR's lobbyist will be able to convince legislators to provide some state support for our Lake Steward efforts," said MLR Executive Director Jeff Forester.



Lake Washburn Association Lake Stewards show their awards.

If you or your lake association is interested in reducing the phosphorus entering the lake you love, and reducing the size, intensity and duration of algae blooms in your lake, contact Jeff Forester at jeff@mnlakesandrivers.org or go to MLR's website for more information.

Stop Starry Outcomes



Starry Stonewort overtaking recreation at Oak Haven before treatment.

As starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*) began to spread in Minnesota, MLR asked the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to provide resources for a containment strategy in the 19 lakes where it existed by installing waterless boat cleaning equipment and using civic organizing and community based social marketing to encourage boaters to use the equipment.

Michigan discovered starry stonewort (SSW) in 2005 and took no action. Today over 1,000 Michigan lakes are infested. Minnesota discovered starry stonewort in 2015 in Lake Koronis. Twenty lakes are now infested. Each is a vector of spread.

Since 2017 the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center and Extension Service has run a robust early detection program called "Starry Trek." Last year over 233 volunteers searched 289 accesses on 244 high risk lakes. And while their efforts found 13 AIS, they discovered no starry stonewort.

Starry stonewort is perhaps the most concerning AIS in Minnesota. Lake Koronis now spends over \$200,000 annually on starry stonewort mitigation to keep the public access usable. Without action now, the spread of SSW to Minnesota's premier lakes is imminent.

So far we have deployed 20 units in Beltrami, Cass, Itasca, Pope and Wright Counties. We are working towards the deployment of three more units in Stearns County. Despite many of the stations being deployed late in the summer, over 6000 boaters used the equipment to Clean, Drain and Dry their watercraft.

Active organizing is underway with key stakeholders in all areas. Stakeholders include representatives of COLA, Lake Associations, County AIS Coordinators, USFS, Tribal resource managers and resort owners.

In 2021 Matt and Sarah Ablers, from Chicago, pursued a life dream and purchased Oak Haven Resort on the Mississippi River between Wolf and Andrusia Lakes. They had escaped the pace of the big city to "God's Country" just outside of Bemidji. Oak Haven Resort is an old school family resort, complete with a playground and small sandy beach.

But that first year, mid-summer, they noticed a thick growth of aquatic vegetation growing near one of their docks. They had purchased a resort that was infested with the most destructive Aquatic Invasive Species in Minnesota. It spread quickly, clogging all five docks. Boaters struggled to get through the dense mats of vegetation. Kids no longer caught fish off the docks. Raining White, a resource manager with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, investigated and determined that it was an infestation of starry stonewort.

"It went from a very few weeds to beds of starry stonewort," said Matt.



Recreation area at Oak Haven open for fun.

I met with Matt early spring of 2022 and let him know about the Stop Starry program. He agreed to have a CD3 boat cleaning station installed at the resort. The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe piloted an experimental treatment called Diver Assisted Suction Harvest (DASH) to remove the starry stonewort. DASH uses a suction hose and pump to suck up starry stonewort. The slurry passes through a filtering system mounted on the deck of a pontoon boat, and clean water goes back into the lake. Divers in the water feed starry stonewort into the hose and direct it to the heaviest mass of algae.

Said Matt, “We pulled 6,000 pounds wet weight and another two thousands pounds where it (starry stonewort) was mixed in with other plants.

Matt and Sarah put their CD3 station on the drive near the entrance to the Great River Road, County Highway 8. Matt and Sarah are very pleased with the boat cleaning equipment.

“Everyone at the resort has used the CD3,” said Matt, noting most did so willingly and a few with some “encouragement.” But beyond the service it provides cleaning boats, “It is a great conversation piece,” said Matt. It gives him a chance to talk about starry stonewort and other AIS and why it is critical to Clean, Drain and Dry whenever a boat is moved from one waterbody to another. Matt noted that many boaters driving past Oak Haven on the Great River Road pulled in to use the equipment.

Their dream of owning a resort in God’s Country is well. With the mitigation of DASH and CD3, the infestation of starry stonewort, “... did not impact business.”



Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe piloting the Diver Assisted Suction Harvest, DASH



Saying Farewell to the MLR Minister of Truth Judy Corrigan

The 29 year success of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers is due to the hard work, dedication, intelligence and skill of Judy Corrigan. She has been with MLR since it first formed in 1993, and her steady hand helped guide this organization during the early fragile times, into a new century, into the information age, through a recession and a pandemic. Her work has benefitted the current generation of shoreland owners, and future generations as well. Judy has been an indispensable partner to me, and it is all of our great good fortune that she dedicated her considerable skills, creativity, talent and hard work to Minnesota Lakes and Rivers.

In August Judy retired from her role with MLR.

When I began in the Executive Director role, it was Judy who trained me into the practices of the organization. Judy and I met frequently and discussed decisions large and small. From political strategy, the structure and details of an event, the decision to give up our offices in Bloomington and downsize just before the 2008 recession, the transition to online work, remote collaboration before the pandemic hit, Judy has had valuable foresight. She read and edited our mailings, annual reports and newsletters. She was the business administrator, customer service representative, marketing coordinator, media relations, event planner, political advisor, program manager and graphic designer. Judy's ethics are beyond sterling and the business practices she implemented provide a remarkable level of transparency, which, given her innate honesty, were almost completely untested. She can see the big picture but never loses track of the minute detail. Even in the most difficult legislative sessions, Judy never succumbed to cynicism. Her unofficial/official title in MLR was Minister of Truth. She never sought any limelight and while my face is the face you see, Judy is the heart and soul of MLR.

But beyond her competence, intelligence and creativity, Judy is very, very kind. She is hilarious. She is a great mother. She was a wonderful daughter. She is a dear friend.

Judy grew up on a dairy farm in Glencoe, MN, the second oldest daughter in a family of four kids. Both of her parents were hearing impaired so Judy learned sign language. She became the family's translator, the interface between doctors and teachers and others and her parents. She carried the patience and ability to communicate into her working life.

She received her undergraduate degree from College of St. Benedict's in Business Administration and minor in Economics, and then an MBA from St. Thomas University. She worked in sales and marketing for Sandoz until 1990 and then for Beaumont-Bennett, and WKB Marketing. She transitioned over as MSRPO began in 1993. At first she was part time, but over the years as she grew the organization, she took on more and more responsibility and hours.

Judy is a master gardener. People, organizations and living things grow under her care. A few years ago she and her neighbor dug up the lawn between their homes and installed a rain garden to sequester the runoff from their roofs. This year her Joe Pye Weed was taller than me. The Monarda was heavy with bees of all descriptions. Her yard is filled with birds and bugs and flowers. Judy makes the world around her beautiful.

I am grateful for the time we worked together. I am grateful for Judy's friendship and support. I am grateful for all of the work Judy has done for MLR over the years. I am grateful that she will continue to help guide our organization as a board member. While Judy has retired, she will continue to handle MLR's mailings and has agreed to remain the Treasurer of the MSRPO PAC. Becoming friends with Judy is one of the greatest gifts of this work. Thank you Judy.

Letter from Executive Director Jeff Forester continued from page 3

Increased Membership Strengthens our Power

Many assume that if their lake association is a member of MLR, then they do not need to join. This could not be further from the truth. **The power of an advocacy group depends on the number of members it has.**

MLR will do the work to protect our lakes that your busy life prevents you from doing, but we do need your help promoting MLR membership to your family, friends and lake association partners.

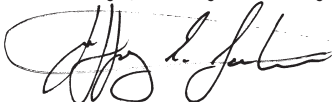
We MUST increase the base of MLR members. Without a large statewide professional advocacy organization, lakes simply cannot compete in the press of interests that converge to use and impact our lakes and rivers.

There are a number of MLR members and board members that have reached out to me and offered to help in this work. We are currently meeting to create materials for you to use to connect with your community. Over the coming year, look for programs, messaging and materials to engage more people. If you attend your lake association meeting, please stand up and urge the membership to join MLR. If someone else stands up in a meeting to carry this message, rise in support of them.

Together we will build an organization that can meet this incredible moment.

I also want to thank you. It is an honor to get up every morning and work to protect our lakes and rivers. I am grateful to be able to work for you and have your support. Thank you for this opportunity to serve you and the public good of clean and healthy lake ecosystems.

As always, thank you for all you do and please stay in touch,



Jeff Forester
Executive Director

Financial Statement 2022

Balance Sheet for Fiscal Years Ending December 31, 2021 and 2022

Assets	2021	2022
Cash	\$47,816	\$46,166
Fixed Assets	\$1,243	\$895
Total Assets	\$49,059	\$47,061

Liabilities & Equity

Net Assets	\$49,059	\$47,061
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$49,059	\$47,061

Expense Allocation

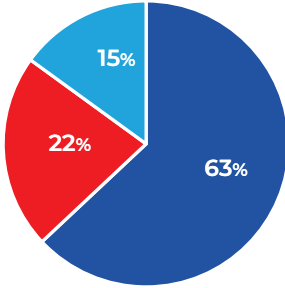
Program	\$193,377
Management & General Expenses	\$65,684
Fundraising	\$45,812
Total without CD3 Boat Cleaning Stations	\$304,873
Stop Starry ENTRF Grant CD3 Boat Cleaning Stations	\$697,527
Total Expenses	\$1,002,400

Revenue

Contributions from Individuals	\$207,210
Contributions from Lake Associations	\$45,515
Stop Starry ENTRF Grant	\$35,648
Other revenue	\$14,850
Total Revenue without CD3 Boat Cleaning Stations	\$303,223
Stop Starry ENTRF Grant CD3 Boat Cleaning Stations	\$697,527
Total Revenue	\$1,000,750

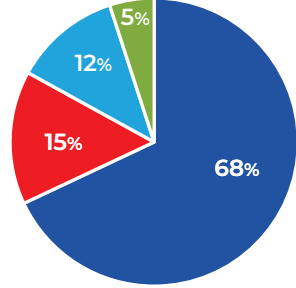
Allocations without CD3 Boat Cleaning Stations

Expense Allocation



- Program
- Mgmt & General Expenses
- Fundraising

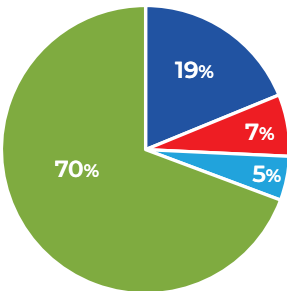
Revenue



- Individuals
- Lake Assn
- Grants
- Other

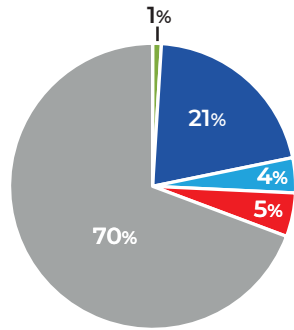
Allocations including CD3 Boat Cleaning Stations

Expense Allocation



- Program
- Fundraising
- Mgmt & General Expenses
- CD3 Boat Cleaning Stations

Revenue



- Individuals
- Lake Assn
- Grants
- Other
- Stop Starry ENTRF Grant CD3 Boat Cleaning Stations

Contributions from January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022

Individuals

Gold \$501 - \$1,000

Bill and Bev Bergstrom
Michael and Susan Blehert
Edward and Nancy Coppola
Sarah Fogderud
Gabbriel Jabbour
John & Thelma James
Kathryn & Orville Jonsrud
Rodney Nelson
Tom Nelson & Mary Blickenderfer
Brian & Mary Ann Nystrom
William Phillips & Linda Nichols
Leah & Perry Rynders
Timothy & Mary Scanlan
Holly Sharp
Steve & Jill Shipley
Robert & Cherie Shreck
Thomas Spicola
Jeff Stabnow
Tom Suerth
Lloyd & Ingrid Thyen
Michael & Danielle Valley
Dr. Dorothy Whitmer
& Dr. Randy Johnson
Steve Yacyshyn
Paul & Stephanie Zollinger

Silver \$301 - 500

Patrick Bauer
Larry & Linda Berger
Phyllis Blake-Angel
Arthur & Cynde Brookfield
Camp Foley
Dan Costello
John Cox
Chuck & Joan Diessner
Scott & Mary Beth Erickson
John & Mary Espenmiller
William & Patricia Eustice
John Graber
Amy Grider
Barbara Halbakken Fischburg
Bob Holman
David & Florence Kleine
Vaughn & Joyce Knapp
Cleo Kriesel
Howard Larson
Carol Mulheran
Sharon Natzel
Carrie Ohly-Cusack
Wanda Roden
James Roszak
Marie Schmid
Dick Schmoker

Greg Thrall
Tom & Joan Van Sloun
Lori & Jeremy Wacker
Christine Warren
Ian & Tricia Wiitanen

Bronze \$250-\$300

3-N Investment Company LLC &
John Nelson
James Almquist
Joseph Arndt
Ronald & Margaret Berg
David & Cynthia Blomberg
David & Anne Bonnerup
Joe & Mardy Brodil
John Broghammer
Dwayne Buchholz
John Burbidge
Sheryl Burkhardt
Richard Burton
Chad Christensen
Steffen Christensen
Joseph Cummings
Cyril Dehn
Frazier & Heidi Eales
Nicole & Brad Ertel
C. A. Furlong
Richard & Linda Gohn
Richard & Nancy Gongoll
Norman Hageboeck
Clayton Halunen
Howard Hansen
Thomas Hansen
Dale & Jane Harberts
Steve & Peggy Hatlestad
Andreas Hendrickson
Lorie & Doyle Herman
Gerry Herringer
Ann & Chris Hilger
David Johnson
Gary & Rea Leonard
Stephen Lerum
Mary & Paul Manns
William Marcil
Phillip Mason
Randall & Kathleen Mauch
Janice Meier
John Middleton
Mark Miedtke
Jordan & Connie Moe
Mark & Elaine Mueller
Ed Olrikens
Hans Olsen
Nick & Judy Priadka
Connie Prunty
Peter Rekow

Dennis & Dorene Richards
RK Holdings LLP
Paul Robey
Ed & Jenni Ryan
Kathleen Scherek
Walter and Shirley Sentyrz
Alan Sherburne
Roger and Phyllis Sherman
Joe Shneider
James Slade
Phil Stephens
Tony Tillemans
Jim & Marie Uhrich
William & Ruth Westhoff
Jim Workman
James & Stephanie Woytcke
Nyle Zikmund

Gifts up to \$250

Thank you to the many contributions made at this level.

Lake Associations

Platinum \$1,001 & above

Gull Chain of Lakes Association
(GCOLA)

Gold \$501-\$1,000

Big Marine Lake Association
Greater Lake Sylvia Association
West Battle Lake Lakeshore
Association (WBLLA)

Silver \$301-500

Clamshell Bertha Lake
Association Assn (CBLA)
Hubbard County COLA
Lake Detroiters Association
MN COLA
North Long Lake Association
Sugar Lake Association
Upper South Long Lake
Improvement Association
(USLLIA)
Vermillion Lake Association

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates Identity and Mission Statement

“Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates protects Minnesota’s lake and river heritage for current and future generations by forging powerful links among lakes, lake advocates, and policy makers.”

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates was started in 1993 by a cabin owner who was concerned that rapidly escalating property taxes were putting a simple Minnesotan value out of reach, time spent with family and friends at a lake place.

Since the organization was founded, MLR has:

- Reduced the cabin property tax rate from 2.25% of value down to 1% to support MLR Lake Association and Individual Members
- Launched the Lake Steward Program, which incentivises shoreline rehabilitation projects and now protects over 2 miles of Minnesota lake shorelines
- Initiated the Up the Creek Meats Program in support of sustainable farming, promoting agriculturalists who reduce pesticide use and protect Minnesota groundwater supply
- Represented MLR members concerns to state legislature in the topics of: shoreline protection from large wake boats; Aquatic Invasive Species prevention and management; lakeshore property tax rates and funds allocation; and much more

MLR works to connect lakeshore homeowners, their lake associations, and their communities with resources to maintain and protect water quality, while providing direct representation for their concerns to the state legislature and policy makers.

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates has found success through providing individuals and organizations with a network of knowledgeable agencies to assist in alleviating water quality concerns. We strive to provide excellence in member support, and take pride in our stance as a civic institution working to improve water conditions statewide.

We Govern Using Civic Standards

We work with key stakeholders to define the problem. We develop a solution with all partners contributing time, expertise, funding or constituents to that solution. By working with partners to solve issues at the local level, we can focus on advancing solutions at the legislature that already have a broad base of support. We actively serve the public good as we work to protect a lake and river heritage for current and future generations.

Minnesota Lakes & Rivers



MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates

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Saint Paul, MN 55122

MLR Board of Directors

Judy Corrigan
Barbara Halbakken Fischburg
Susan Henken Thielen
John P. James
Mary Manns
Carrie Ohly-Cusack

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