2022 - 2023

ANNUAL REPORT

Ensuring the waters of the Great Lakes Basin are healthy, public, and protected for all!
MEET OUR BOARD

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In their words

“I joined the board of FLOW out of concern for the well-being of the Great Lakes, its tributaries, and the groundwater of the Great Lakes Basin. The work of FLOW is critical to the protection of these resources now, and even more so for future generations.”

— PHIL ELLIS, BOARD MEMBER

forloveofwater.org
For Love of Water (FLOW) is an nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our mission is to ensure the waters of the Great Lakes Basin are healthy, public, and protected for all. With a staff of legal and policy experts, writers, and community builders, FLOW is a trusted resource for Great Lakes advocates. We help communities, businesses, agencies, and legislators make informed policy decisions and protect public trust rights to water.
FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A Year of Action: How our Great Lakes mission and work builds community, changes the way we think about and relate to water, and shapes new equitable policies for a sustainable future.

Dear Friends,

2023 was a pivotal year for the protection of our Great Lakes waters, and with your support, FLOW was able to make important progress and inroads on key issues. Because of you, the collective voice of the Great Lakes continues to grow. Water truly is life, and it connects us all. Thank you for joining our mission to ensure the waters of the Great Lakes are healthy, public, and protected for all.

With a favorable climate in Lansing, we worked fast to rally diverse stakeholders and legislators to draft and introduce a uniform septic code and polluter pay laws, and repeal existing laws that prohibited Michigan from creating more protective rules than the federal government. This work takes strong leadership and expertise, deep partnerships, and financial support.

We also continued to work tirelessly to shut down Line 5 and its dangerous tunnel replacement, and advocate for smart energy alternatives to protect the Great Lakes. In the fight against Line 5, FLOW filed legal briefs and comments, published a new Line 5 Fact Sheet and Citizen Action Toolkit, and engaged thousands of people, like you, through our Line 5 webinars and videos.

As Michigan enacted sweeping climate legislation, we articulated how decarbonizing Michigan's economy in this energy transition will dramatically improve water quality.

We were part of a coalition that brought more funding to collect data that is critical to protecting groundwater, the source of drinking water for 45% of Michigan’s population, and a $5 million program to test the safety of private wells.

Defending our public trust rights was top of mind as we opposed the expansion of Camp Grayling, which would drastically limit public uses of considerable state recreational land, and challenged two private marina applications on inland lakes. We also targeted industrial agricultural pollution from CAFOs (concentrated animal feeding operations), filing a joint amicus brief with the Environmental Law & Policy Center and others to uphold the agencies’ authority to regulate this industry.

We supported grassroots citizen groups like the Chemours Environmental Impact Committee (CEIC), submitting a petition to intervene in EGLE’s process with the state for clean-up of the area around Sadony Bayou, adjacent to White Lake, where legacy pollution from a DuPort site continues to render waters unfit for use by humans and wildlife.

But the key to our long-term success is prioritizing public engagement and advocacy with you. We hosted webinars on groundwater and septic pollution and Line 5, made dozens of presentations to community groups, academic institutions, and philanthropic leaders, and provided timely action alerts and updated materials across all of our programming. Working alongside our partners, allies, supporters, and friends, FLOW will continue to plant new seeds from which will grow a more just, diverse, inclusive, equitable, prosperous, and resilient water future for generations to come.

Together we can stay inspired and work to ensure our waters are healthy, public, and protected for all.

With gratitude for your steadfast support and passion for the Great Lakes,

[Signature]

forloveofwater.org
We are excited to present the Treasurer’s Report for FY22-23, on pages 8-10, showcasing FLOW’s financial achievements and strategic decisions in pursuit of our mission to ensure the waters of the Great Lakes Basin are healthy, public, and protected for all.

The last fiscal year proved to be an exciting period for FLOW, marked by substantial growth. A key milestone was the receipt of a generous, transformative gift in early 2023. The Board promptly took decisive action, following GAAP standards, to allocate this gift for upcoming strategic initiatives. This marked a transition into a more sophisticated financial space for FLOW.

FLOW engaged with a professional fiduciary to guide the investment of this transformative gift and has invested it in highly liquid treasury bonds. This decision aligns with our commitment to responsible financial management and ensures that the funds remain easily accessible.

Treasury bonds are known for their stability and security and provide a conservative investment approach that safeguards the principal while allowing flexibility for future strategic initiatives. Importantly, this decision signifies that these funds are earmarked to amplify and expedite our legal efforts to protect the Great Lakes.

FLOW stands in a robust and secure financial position as we move into the next fiscal year. We are excited about the years to come and anticipate continued growth and outcomes. As members of FLOW’s board, we believe in upholding the highest standards of stewardship for the resources entrusted to us. To our dedicated community and stakeholders, we extend our heartfelt appreciation. Your support enables FLOW to make a true and lasting impact and will advance the protection of the Great Lakes Basin for generations to come.
Every day, 23 million gallons of fossil fuels run through the 71-year-old Line 5 oil pipeline that lies across the busy, turbulent Straits of Mackinac. Line 5 is buffeted by strong currents, threatened by anchor strikes, and no longer fully supported by the lakebed floor. In 2023, we carried on our fight to shut down Line 5 through public education and engagement; and through our legal work in the courts:

- **Produced two Line 5 webinars** with legal and policy experts, which were viewed by over 2,000 people.
- **Published a new Line 5 fact sheet** to fight back against Enbridge’s misinformation.
- **Created a viral social media video** about the MPSC’s decision to approve moving Line 5 to a proposed underground tunnel, which was viewed over 12,000 times.
- **Created a Line 5 Citizen Action Toolkit** to empower citizens and provide smart ways to take action against Line 5.
- **Supported Line 5 litigation and filed multiple amicus briefs**, including a September 2023 brief with the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, urging the court to remand the lawsuit *Attorney General Dana Nessel v. Enbridge* back to state court.
- **Filed public comments** with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Michigan Public Service Commission, and Mackinac Straits Corridor Authority.
- **Promoted and disseminated the important report** from PLG Consulting, *Likely Market Responses to a Potential Shutdown of Line 5*. The report found that with advance notice, energy markets are expected to adapt to a shutdown without supply shortages or price spikes.
- **Gave numerous public presentations** about the dangers of Line 5, reaching hundreds of our Michigan neighbors.
- **Featured in the documentary film** *Troubled Water* (2023), now touring nationally. It’s the riveting story of two friends who paddleboard from Line 5 in the Mackinac Straits to Lansing to bring attention to the threat.
Governor Whitmer signed the repeal of “No Stricter Than Federal,” a Snyder-era law that barred Michigan from adopting environmental standards stronger than those in federal law. With the repeal, we now have the power to set the higher environmental standards that are right for Michigan.

FLOW convened the Groundwater Table, a working group of experts and stakeholders to examine Michigan’s groundwater data needs. Recommendations made by the Groundwater Table helped secure $24 million for the collection and management of groundwater data. This data will further our understanding and oversight of hydrologic systems and monitor threats to groundwater.

Michigan is the only state in the nation without a statewide septic code, and failing systems threaten our environment and public health. We’re working with a broad coalition of stakeholders to develop and introduce legislation to create a statewide septic code for Michigan.

In March 2023, FLOW hosted a webinar, The Case for a Statewide Septic Code. The webinar offered legal, scientific, economic, and political perspectives on the urgent need and critical opportunity Michigan has to protect our water from septic system pollution.

With our partner the Environmental Law and Policy Center (ELPC), FLOW filed an amicus brief to regulate large-scale factory farms in a case before the Michigan Supreme Court.

We shared our interactive Groundwater Story Map with educators and students to help them learn about the environmental significance of and threats to groundwater – Michigan’s Sixth Great Lake.

We published an influential new report, Making Polluters Pay: How to Fix State Law and Policy to Protect Groundwater and Michigan Taxpayers. The report provides the historical context and discusses the enduring, unfortunate legacy of Michigan’s repeal of the laws that once held corporate polluters accountable for cleaning up their environmental messes.

FLOW authored a World Water Day resolution in Michigan; proclaiming a right to access clean water and sanitation for all Michiganders.

RESOLVED: We cherish and acknowledge the special responsibility of protecting Michigan’s waters for current and future generations and of assuring access to clean water and sanitation for all Michigan residents.

In October 2023, we celebrated the introduction of Polluter Pay legislation by Sen. Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor) and Rep. Jason Morgan (D-Ann Arbor). The legislation, which is expected to come to a vote in late 2024, would set more stringent standards for cleanups, prevent contamination sites from being “orphaned” by changes in corporate ownership, and help those who have been harmed by pollution seek justice.

PICTURED ABOVE: In June of 2021, filmmaker Davis Huber (left), William Wright (center), and Chris Yahanda (right), set off on a 36-day, 425-mile standup paddleboard journey from Mackinac Island to Lansing. Their film, “Troubled Water,” highlights current environmental issues from the Line 5 pipeline to algal blooms to the uncertain future of the fishing industry.
In Michigan, we continued statewide engagement on our Michigan Public Water Trust Act model legislation, which would do three big things:

- **Ensure** that Michigan’s waters remain in the public domain by extending the public trust doctrine to groundwater
- **Impose** a $0.25 per gallon royalty on bottled water
- **Raise** $250 million a year towards water affordability, infrastructure, and remediating contamination

We also engaged with New York state Senator Rachel May and Assembly member Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas on the introduction of a similar bill based on our model, the Public Water Justice Act.

**Published an important op-ed in Bridge Michigan, “Keep Michigan water affordable and in public hands”** about the dangers and pitfalls of the privatization of water infrastructure.

Teamed up with Food & Water Watch and Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy to address commodification and financialization, including a proposal to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to exclude “water or water rights” from the definition of a commodity; and support Sen. Elizabeth Warren’s Future of Water Act to ban water futures trading.

FLOW celebrated and lifted up Governor Gretchen Whitmer’s MI Healthy Climate Plan, and published at length about the nexus of cleaner energy and cleaner water.

FLOW supported local, grassroots groups and defended public trust rights by submitting public comments to:

- **Stop** the proposed expansion of Camp Grayling
- **Stop** a proposed private boat channel on Traverse City’s Long Lake
- **Oppose** a proposed private marina on Omena Bay

Provided legal assistance to the Chemours Environmental Impact Committee (CEIC) to support its petition to intervene in the state’s cleanup plan for the Chemours industrial site in Muskegon County. Chemours, a Dupont spin-off, has a long history of discharging chemicals into the environment, including the carcinogen trichloroethylene.

**Read “Keep Michigan water affordable and in public hands” here!**
Fiscal Year: Oct. 2022 to Sept. 2023

Financial Review

Thanks to generous gifts from our supporters, FLOW’s impact is expanding across the Great Lakes Basin. Increases in unrestricted and recurring donations have enabled FLOW to both plan further ahead and adapt swiftly to the ever-changing landscape of our work. We are deeply grateful for your support!

Statement of Activities

- **Revenue**: $2,064,243
  - Individual & Other Donations: $1,435,548 (70%)
  - Corporate Donations: $37,768 (2%)

- **Expenses**: $718,335
  - Programs, Salaries & Benefits: $623,604 (85%)
  - Rent & Insurance: $39,525 (5%)
  - Technology: $24,384 (3%)
  - Marketing & Communications: $16,002 (2%)
  - Other Expenses: $15,820 (2%)

Net Income: $1,344,908 (35% of Revenue)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets
Current Assets
  Checking and Savings 2,220,275
  Accounts Receivable 36,962
  Pledges and Grants Receivable 120,000
  Other Assets 46,973
Total Assets 2,424,210

Liabilities and Net Assets
Liabilities
  Accounts Payable 30,833
  Other Liabilities 44,976
Total Liabilities 75,809
Net Assets
  Temporarily Restricted Net Assets 431,250
  Unrestricted Net Assets 1,917,151
Total Net Assets 2,348,401

Total Liabilities and Net Assets 2,424,210

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Revenue
  Individual Gifts 1,435,548
  Grants 589,633
  Corporate 37,768
  Other Revenue 1,294
Total Revenue 2,064,243

Expenses
  Programs, Salaries & Benefits 623,604
  Rent 39,525
  Technology 24,384
  Marketing and Communications 16,002
  Other Expenses 15,820
Total Expenses 719,335

Net Income 1,344,908

ORGANIZATION & FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

Anonymous Foundations (2)
Article One Eyewear
Cherry Republic
Community Yoga at ELEV8
DG+Design
Richard L. and Freda K. Flerlage Foundation
Frey Family Fund
Gramercy Post
Green Brick Foundation
Hagerty Charitable Endowment
Barton J. Ingraham & Gail G. Ingraham Foundation
Keweenaw Coffee Works
The Leonard and Norma Klorfine Foundation
Karin Bain and John Kukral Foundation
Lenfestey Family Foundation
Lupin Foundation
Mackinac Island Community Foundation
Mariel Foundation
MAWBY Vineyards and Winery
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Porter Family Foundation
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The Seabury Foundation
Tricoastal Foundation
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse
Van Dam Custom Boats
Vander Veen Fund
The Wege Foundation
With heartfelt gratitude, we extend a tremendous thank you to our diverse network of donors across the United States. Your contributions, ranging from $1 to $1 million, power FLOW’s mission to protect the Great Lakes. Together, we’re working towards a sustainable future for generations to come.

IN MEMORY

Rob Anderson  
by Heidi Bogle & David Wallace

Claudia Delp  
by Kate Redman

Leonard Franseen  
by Karen Franseen

Ali Gerkin  
by Betsy Alles

Gary Street  
by Kurt & Nancy Hoefer

The Water  
JoAnne Cook

Pat Hessler  
by Carrie Hessler-Radelet & Steve Radelet

Charlie Kehr  
by Jim Sheets

Carolyn Lewis  
by Debra Lewis & Kevin Nagy

Dorothy Lewis  
by Laura Lewis

Margaret D. McIntire  
by Mary K McIntire

Joyce Higgy Miller  
by Edward Miller

Althea Petritz  
by Jim & Chris MacInnes & Elizabeth Rodgers

Bob Russell  
by Kima M Kraimer

David Balas  
by Jim Sellman

Beryl Skrocki  
by Emily Hopcian

Bob Russell  
by Kima M Kraimer

Teddy & Lucky  
by Harvey’s Foundation

Patrick J. Tobin, MD  
by Jennifer Tobin Haydock

IN HONOR

Kay & Rick Anderson  
by Nina Consolatti

Barbara Brown  
by Diane Dupuis & Steven Carey

JoAnne Cook  
by P.E.O. Sisterhood EM Chapter

Melissa Culver  
by Emily Tatman

Dave Dempsey  
by Carol Ingells, Ann Rogers, and Patricia & Larry Widmayer

Pamela Diamond  
by Jerry Beasley & Fleda Brown

Diane Dupuis  
by Gary & Mimi Appel

FLOW Staff  
by Diane Wells, & Derek Nielsen

David Frederick & Hildi Paulsen  
by Nancy & Mitchell Carey

Tom Healy  
by Thomas Mustoe

Dr. Gregory & Margo Hessler  
by Hugh Hessler

Janet Hessler  
by Hugh Hessler

John P. Hoffmann  
by John Hoffmann

Jim Huckle  
by Barbara & Tom Auer

Jon Jacobs  
by Erika Petty

Ginny & Charlie Kirkwood  
by Liz & Pete Kirkwood & Hugh Hessler

Liz Kirkwood  
by Carolyn Rentenbach

Mary Link  
by Emily Votruba

Jennifer & Steve Murray  
by Hugh Hessler

Jim Olson  
by Linda & Larry Sommerville & Richard and Susan Vander Veen

Carrie & Steve Radelet  
by Hugh Hessler

Meghan Radelet  
by Hugh Hessler

Sam Radelet  
by Hugh Hessler

With thanks to those who give!
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