



June 8, 2018

Dear Lake Association representative,

We are excited to invite your lake association to attend a pilot training session for the Michigan Shoreland Stewards Ambassador program.

As an active representative of your lake association, we hope you have not only become familiar with the MI Shoreland Stewards (MiSS) program since it was launched in the spring of 2016, but also found it to be a useful tool in connecting with your membership. For those of you who may not be familiar, MiSS is a statewide outreach and education program of the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership (MNSP). MiSS encourages lakefront property owners to practice good shoreland stewardship as an important means to protect Michigan's inland lakes' water quality and health.

At the heart of the MiSS program is a web-based survey that includes questions designed to assess how individuals, as property owners, currently practice shoreland stewardship. From shoreline vegetation and fertilizing, to septic maintenance and pet waste, the program serves as an educational resource to encourage protection of inland lakes through best management practices while providing property owners recognition for their stewardship efforts.

Thanks to the six Northern Michigan lake associations who actively participated in the development of the MiSS program, one key need was identified early on: each lake association should have one or more designated representatives who not only have a thorough understanding of the program, but can serve as a resource and program advocate; hence, the Ambassador program was created. We believe the MiSS Ambassador program will be a great asset to your lake association's efforts and that Ambassadors can not only encourage lake stewardship through the MiSS program, but can also provide an important link between your lake association and membership.

As support for the program, we have developed a wealth of materials and resources that we are ready to share with lake associations through this pilot training opportunity. Your participation and feedback will also help us further develop training options for the MiSS Ambassador program before training is offered statewide.

We hope you will send one or two representatives from your lake association who are interested in filling the role as MiSS Ambassador. The first training session will take place:

When: July 25th, 2018 from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm.
Where: Charlevoix Public Library
Community Room A
220 West Clinton St., Charlevoix

There is no fee to attend. Lunch and drinks are provided!

Please note: due to limited space, we ask that you send a maximum of two representatives from you lake association. Each attendee will receive a MiSS Ambassador Toolkit.

Please **RSVP by July 13th** to Macy, Huron Pines AmeriCorps member at Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council: macy@watershedcouncil.org or 231-347-1181 x 119.

We hope to see you in July!

Sincerely,



Julia Kirkwood, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
MNSP-Chair



Jennifer Buchanan, Eli Baker, and Macy Doster
Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

For more information about:



Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership: www.mishorelinepartnership.org

Michigan Shoreland Stewards program: www.mishorelandstewardship.org