

# Water WoRDs

## *Updates from the Water Resources Division*



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## **Water Quality Monitoring Grants Drawing to a Close**

### **What is The Clean Michigan Initiative?**

“Clean Water, Clean Parks, Clean Communities.” That slogan encouraged voters to approve the \$675 million general obligation bond known as the Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) back in 1998. Since then, CMI dollars have funded a broad range of activities, including: cleaning up contaminated sites, preventing pollution, improving local and state parks, and funding efforts to protect and improve water quality. Using CMI funds, the DEQ’s Water Resources Division (WRD) has been able to provide grants for water quality monitoring activities across the state.



### **CMI Water Quality Monitoring Grant History**

Since 2001, the WRD’s Surface Water Assessment Section has provided approximately 3.5 million dollars in water quality monitoring grants. Initially, the grant program focused on monitoring “emerging” water quality issues. More recently, its emphasis has been monitoring projects of local concern. The 85 projects funded to date cover a broad range of monitoring activities, including: pharmaceutical pollution, invasive species presence, dissolved oxygen concentrations, algal blooms, aquatic macroinvertebrate community assessment, bacterial source tracking, and many more. The state of Michigan’s Fiscal Year 2015 (which begins on October 1, 2014), will mark the 14th year of CMI water quality grants. It will also be the final year these grants are offered.

### **FY 2015 CMI Water Quality Monitoring Grants**

The final water quality monitoring grant request for proposals (RFP) will be released July 14th, 2014. A total of \$300,000 will be available for monitoring projects of two-year duration. There is no maximum grant request amount but certain restrictions do apply. Groups eligible for funding include 501(c)(3) nonprofit groups and local units of government. Once released, the RFP will provide full details on eligibility and proposal requirements. It will also include detailed instructions for completing a proposal.

Following the RFP release, a Webinar will be held on July 18, 2014. The Webinar will provide information on the CMI bond, touch upon proposal requirements, present tips for submitting a successful proposal, and provide an opportunity for DEQ staff to answer grant related questions.

The RFP (release date July 14, 2014), a link to register for the Webinar, and other relevant information are available at: *link removed, no longer valid*



### **Future of Water Quality Monitoring Grants**

The work funded by CMI monitoring grants has helped in the effort to enhance clean water, parks, and communities across Michigan. While money to fund CMI water quality monitoring grants is drying up, the need for this important work remains. The WRD is hopeful that a new funding source will become available in the future to continue providing water quality monitoring grants to preserve our Pure Michigan.

### **What do you do in the WRD? Meet Tom Alwin.**

Tom Alwin has worked for the WRD since 2010. Tom earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the Fisheries and Wildlife Department at Michigan State University. He began his career in the DEQ issuing permits for chemical treatment of nuisance aquatic plants, and in 2012 transferred to an Aquatic Biologist position. His current responsibilities include: monitoring surface water quality, managing the water quality monitoring grant process, and assisting with targeted monitoring requests.

