

Four-Township Water Resources Council, Inc.

P.O. Box 634 ❖ Richland, Michigan ❖ 49083-0634

Spring, 2017 Newsletter

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2016-2017

Steve Allen (2019)
President

Ken Kornheiser (2018)
Vice President

Rich Mather (2018)
Treasurer

Robin Byrn (2017)
Secretary

Mike Gallagher (2018)
At Large

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Trey Eldridge (2019)

Rick Lawrence (2019)

Kevin Loudon (2017)

Eric Reid (2019)

Jim Stoneburner (2017)

Roger Turner (2018)

Emily Wilke (2018)

e-mail: mail@ftwrc.org
web: www.ftwrc.org
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Notice of Annual Meeting

Understand and Protect Your Lakeshore

Please join your neighbors and other area riparians at the annual meeting of the Four-Township Water Resources Council on **Monday May 1st, starting at 7:00pm** in the Auditorium at the Kellogg Biological Station.



Shoreline protection and habitat will be the theme of this year's annual meeting. Julia Kirkwood from the MDEQ Water Resources Division is chair of the Natural Shoreline Partnership (MNSP). She will share [a new MDEQ program](#) that encourages shoreline protection and natural habitat preservation on our Michigan lakes. Suggestions, photos, and demonstration examples will be shared.

Related to the MNSP program, Mike Gallagher, Gull Lake riparian and Board Member with both the Gull Lake Quality Organization and FTWRC will share results of the GLQO efforts to "Score the Shore". Results of a volunteer effort to evaluate and "score" the Gull Lake shoreline from 2016 will be presented ([2016 report](#), see page 5). Come and learn more about how the shorelines in various areas of Gull Lake were evaluated.

Light refreshments will be served.

After the end of the official Annual Meeting, there will be a short meeting for the Council Membership for election of officers and Board Members, as well as a brief planning discussion of the upcoming Kanoe the Kazoo paddle. Elections are open to all FTWRC Members, not just Board Members.

Photo courtesy Steve Allen.

Announcing the 2017 Kanoe the Kazoo Paddle Excursion

We are pleased to announce this year's Four Township Kanoe the Kazoo Paddle, to be held on Upper Crooked Lake, Delton. This event will be co-sponsored by FTWRC and the Prairieville Township Park Board.

When: **Saturday June 3rd, 2017**

- Gather at 3:00pm
- Launch onto the Lake at 4:00pm
- Float for about one and a half hours, circling Upper Crooked Lake
- Bring your own craft (canoe, kayak, etc.), and your own personal flotation devices



Where: **Upper Crooked Lake**

- Launch from the [public access on Delton Road](#)
- Participant parking at the [Bernard Historical Museum](#), 500' to the east

(continued on next page)

Announcing the 2017 Kanoë the Kazoo Paddle Excursion (con't)

Enjoy a late afternoon paddle on Upper Crooked Lake, and learn more about the first dedicated boat wash station in Southwest Michigan. Natural history education will be provided by local experts:

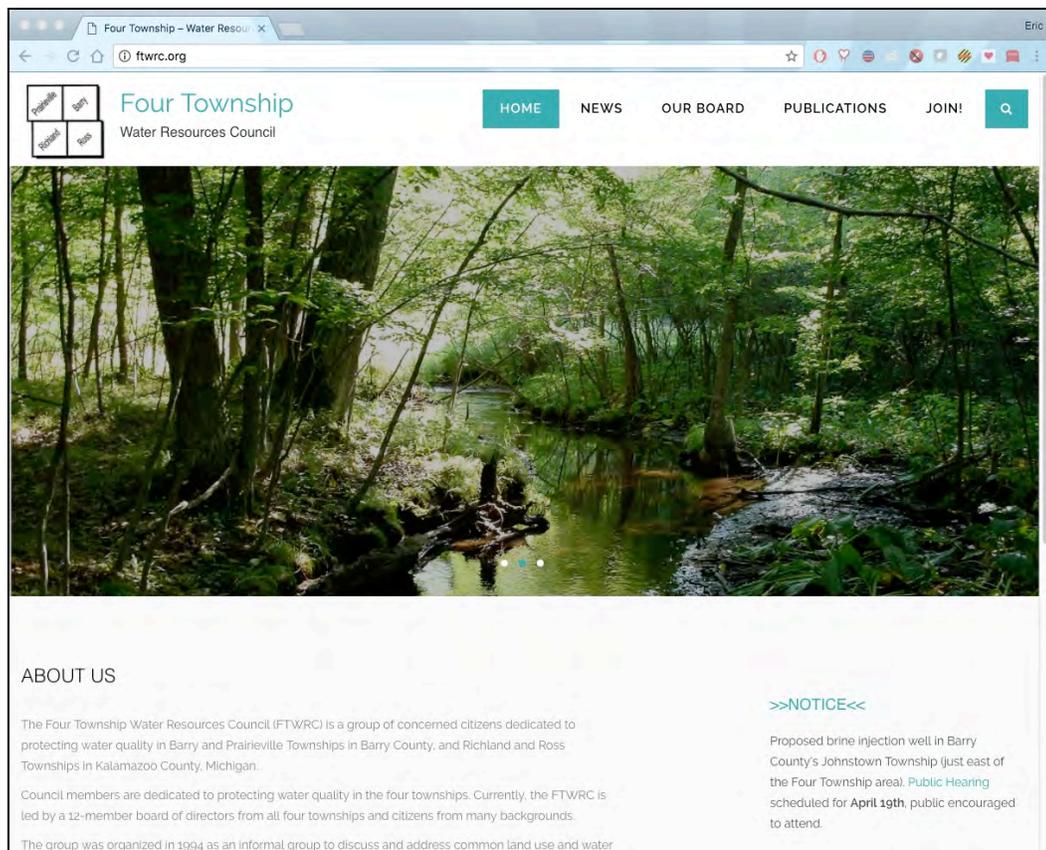
- **Dr. Steve Hamilton:** Professor of Ecosystem Ecology & Biogeochemistry at KBS; president of the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council.
- **Dr. Ken Kornheiser:** Founding member of the FTWRC. Dedicated paddler and life-long amateur naturalist.
- **Mr. Steve Allen:** Owner of a local environmental consulting firm. Former long-time naturalist with the Kalamazoo Nature Center.

Please note: It is required that **all** vessels entering and leaving Upper Crooked Lake use the boat wash station, in order to reduce movement of Aquatic Invasive Species. This does include everyone participating in this paddle.

Photo courtesy Ken Kornheiser.

FTWRC's New Website

We're excited to unveil the redesigned and updated FTWRC website this Spring. Point your favorite browser to <http://ftwrc.org> to check it out. We very much welcome any and all feedback on the site as we go forward!



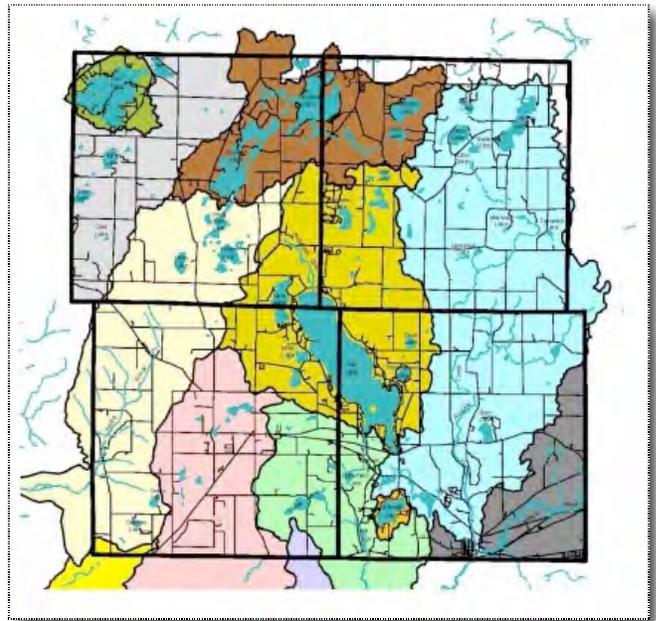
Save The Trees! Getting Your FTWRC Newsletter Electronically

Attention Members! All of the photos in this and future newsletters are in color! If you didn't know that, it's because you're staring at the printed monochromatic version we mailed you. If you'd rather we email you the latest newsletters, just drop us a note (via mail, email or Facebook).

Anyone (members and non-members alike) can always download the latest newsletter in all its resplendent color from our website, <http://ftwrc.org>.

Update on the Four-Township Area Watershed Management Plan

Your FTWRC has completed the drafting of an update to the Watershed Management Plan (WMP) for streams in our area. These include Augusta, Comstock, Gull, Prairieville, Silver Creeks, Spring Brook, and part of Seven Mile Creek. Initially prepared and [published in 2010 by the FTWRC](#), this update is part of an ongoing process that keeps the management plans current. Jamie McCarthy, Watershed Coordinator for the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council has been the project lead for this effort, supported in the field by FTWRC Board Members **Ken Kornheiser, Roger Turner, Emily Wilke, Rich Mather and Steve Allen**. Jamie has evaluated the field data looking at road stream crossings of all the watershed streams that feed into the Kalamazoo River. Reflected in this revision will be new and on-going research and evaluation activities that have been conducted by MSU's Kellogg Biological Station, The Gull Lake Quality Organization, and the FTWRC. The updated plan will be submitted to MI-DEQ for review and approval. To review a copy of the submitted plan document find it on our website at www.ftwrc.org.



A Spring “Did You Know?”

- **Did You Know?....** that FTWRC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. As such, donations can be tax-deductable under IRS regulations.

In addition, many corporate Matching Gifts programs can match up to the full amount of your donation to the Council – check with your employer's HR department to see if you might qualify. Recently, for example, the FTWRC partnered with the Benevity corporate donations platform. If your employer is a member of [Benevity](#), you may be able to match up to 100% of your donation to us!

- **Did You Know?....** that FTWRC is now on Facebook? For those of you Social Media mavens out there, you can find us at <https://www.facebook.com/4TWRC>, where we also publish news and information for our members and the community at large. In addition, **you** can post to our page with pictures, questions or information in which you think our membership would be interested.

Share Your Four Township Photographs With Us!

One of the many advantages to living within these Four Townships is the abundance of local natural beauty. We from time to time like to share our pictures with you, our members, and we'd like to encourage that you share your pictures with us. They don't necessarily need to be of water bodies, and we might well share them via our website, Facebook page or newsletter (with your permission, of course!).

This Spring, Vice President Ken Kornheiser shares this set, titled 'The Four Seasons in the Four Townships', taken from his property.



Membership Information

The Four-Township Water Resources Council is financed by tax-deductible dues and contributions. Benefits include the council newsletter, information on education programs, and participation in the annual meeting and election of directors. Dues cover the period from January 1 through December 31 of each calendar year.

Yes! I would like to join the Four-Township Water Resources Council

I am already a member and would like to renew my membership

Name _____

Email address _____

Providing your e-mail address will help us to save on mailing costs.

Your e-mail address will not be shared or sold.

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Membership Categories

- \$25 Regular
- \$26-\$99 Contributing
- \$100-\$499 Sustaining
- \$500-\$999 Benefactor
- \$1000 + Patron

Please make checks payable, and mail, to:

Four-Township Water Resources Council
P.O. Box 634
Richland, Michigan 49083-0634

Gift/donation \$ _____