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## **M&M Area Community Foundation Joins Great Lakes One Water Partnership**

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The M&M Area Community Foundation announced it has joined the Great Lakes One Water Partnership (GLOW), a new endeavor designed to help communities around the Great Lakes region develop and implement projects and practices that will secure the region's water future. The Great Lakes One Water Partnership is a multi-year, basin-wide initiative supported by the Great Lakes Protection Fund and the Council of Michigan Foundations. The project will focus on engaging shoreline community foundations as a catalyst for water infrastructure management benefiting people and businesses in the Great Lakes Basin.

With a one million dollar grant from the Great Lakes Protection Fund, the Council of Michigan Foundations and a team of water resource professionals will coordinate an effort to organize in six regions surrounding the Great Lakes in both the United States and Canada. Over thirty community foundation have agreed to participate. It is expected that other funding sources will make similar investments in this initiative.

Working together, the stakeholders in each group will identify primary regional water infrastructure needs and potential projects. Examples may include restoration of wetlands, abatement of nutrient or combined sewer overflow runoff, or other critical infrastructure priorities.

"Given our location and the obvious importance of Great Lakes water to business, industry, health and the recreational future of this area, this is welcome news," said North Shetter, former M&M Area Community Foundation Board President and GLOW Regional Team member.

Dave Rankin, Vice President of Programs at the Great Lakes Protection Fund said "Water defines our region. It is the foundation of our economy and it anchors our quality of life. The care and protection of water resources is a matter of urgency; we cannot be passive or rely on old strategies. This project is designed to bring communities together and give them the power to

collectively secure their own water futures. We need new voices and new perspectives around the table and this project is centered on investing in those community foundations that have broad public support and the capacity to be a force for change.”

Rob Collier, CEO and President of the Council of Michigan Foundations said “Community foundations are anchors, and often serve as silent partners working tirelessly in communities. With trust in government at an all-time low, community foundations can step up as trusted partners and agents to drive positive change. That is why this initiative helps community foundations lead the way for collaborative water progress.”

Over the life of the initiative, the 30 community foundations will also receive technical assistance and access to the latest tools, strategies, and research to help them implement their projects and better tell their own water stories in their communities.

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