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## **COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S GREAT LAKES ONE WATER EFFORT MOVES FORWARD**

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Menominee, MI – The M&M Area Community Foundation (MMACF) has finalized an action plan to move forward with its commitment to protect the water resources of the region by limiting the impact of extreme weather events. The “Resilient Future Project” established by the Great Lakes One Water Partnership has outlined an action plan for building a community of informed civic and municipal leaders prepared to implement strategies to better manage the effects of severe storm events.

Following the call to action by the Michigan Association of Community Foundations, the MMACF established an ad hoc committee to gather data, set priorities, and outline a strategy to assist civic and municipal leaders with the tasks of assessing and addressing future preparedness and infrastructure adequacy for mitigating the degradation of local water resources.

The MMACF, together with Community Foundation of Marquette County, Community Foundation of the Upper Peninsula and Delta County, Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation and Keweenaw Community Foundation are working in collaboration to share resources, address common concerns, and identify actions and policies that will protect common water resources.

“With the backing of our Board of Directors and the support of local volunteers, as well as county and municipal officials, we are in a place to begin to broaden our reach to the larger community for establishing a plan and timetable to focus on doable infrastructure,” said John Lee MMACF Board member and ad hoc committee chair.

To date, the Great Lakes One Water initiative has been funded with a \$300,000 seed grant from Great Lakes Protection Fund, Ralph Wilson Foundation and Kresge Foundation, along with an additional \$200,000 match, to help kick-start the work. The Foundations have also put in place a team of qualified people to provide the human and technical resources needed to support each community.

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