

Michigan Township **INSIGHTS**

April 12, 2024

Release of MTA model renewable energy ordinance paused as MPSC issues draft guidance



With the enactment of [Public Act 233 of 2023](#)—the new law that shifted siting authority over large-scale renewable energy facilities to the state, MTA has been working with our legal counsel to prepare a sample compatible renewable energy ordinance (CREO) and model application for our members. MTA and MTA’s legal counsel have also been active participants with the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) presenting issues to be considered from a local government perspective, from siting to decommissioning projects at the local level. MPSC—the state regulatory agency implementing the law—released [initial draft guidance](#) on April 4 on some PA 233 provisions. MTA and our legal counsel are reviewing the initial draft guidance to determine necessary changes to the model CREO and application and to submit comments to MPSC. We will share the model CREO and model application with members within the upcoming several weeks; watch for an eblast on availability, as well as *Township Insights* and our website.

Townships can also review the MPSC’s initial guidance and submit comments at [Request for Informal Comments on Initial Straw Proposals](#). The deadline to submit comments is **April 24**. Information on the implementation process and recordings of the three sessions MPSC hosted on March 7, March 19 and April 5 are available on the MPSC’s [PA 233 implementation webpage](#). The next stakeholder meeting is set for April 26.

Funding for acquisition and development trust fund projects moves

Funding for 19 township projects, included in the 53 projects recommended by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

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BOOTH 103

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May 8 *Now You Know*
lunchtime webinar:
[Cemetery Services](#)

April 22-25: [Annual Educational Conference & Expo](#)

[April 22 Pre-Conference sessions:](#)

Board, received approval in the first step of the legislative process. [Senate Bill 817](#), sponsored by Sen. John Cherry (D-Flint) and supported by MTA, provides \$27.3 million in matching funds for 18 acquisition projects and 35 development projects. The measure was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee this week and next moves to the full Senate for a vote.

BEAD Challenge extended to April 30; identify and confirm high-speed internet service in your township

Townships have additional time to identify and confirm the high-speed internet service within their community. The Michigan High-Speed Internet Office (MIHI) has extended the [Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment \(BEAD\) Challenge process](#) until **April 30**. The State Challenge Process allows you to identify and confirm whether the areas in your township are served to improve high-speed internet access. View the [Michigan Broadband Map](#) for served, unserved or underserved locations within your community. View MIHI's [Eligible Challenger webinar](#) to learn what types of challenges will be accepted, what type of evidence will be required, and how to use the State Challenge Portal to submit challenges and evidence, as well as [Challenge Evidence Guidance Update](#).

You can register for an account via the [BEAD Challenge webpage for Local and Tribal Governments](#). Even if your township does not plan to submit any challenges, registering for an account allows you to be notified of challenges you may have interest in rebutting. You can also join MIHI's virtual office hours from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. on the following days to learn more—no preregistration is required, simply click on the link to join: [Tuesday, April 16](#), [Thursday, April 18](#), [Monday, April 22](#), [Thursday, April 25](#), and [Monday, April 29](#).

Revised Uniform Budget Manual released

A revised [Uniform Budget Manual for Local Units of Government](#) was released this week by the state Department of Treasury. This important manual is a key resource for township leaders and staff, as well as auditors and accountants, in applying legal requirements and establishing a



[**Assessor's Renewal: March Madness](#)

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sound budgeting process. Recommended practices to enhance the budgeting process are also included in the manual. The revised manual is effective for fiscal years beginning July 1, 2024, and after. Earlier this year, MTA submitted comments during a public comment period on the exposure draft of the manual. Following the public comment period, changes were made accordingly. Submit questions to LAFD_Audits@michigan.gov or to Michigan Department of Treasury, Local Audit and Finance Division, P.O. Box 30728, Lansing, MI 48909-8228.

MCAT course to be held in June

[Applications](#) are being accepted for the June [2024 Michigan Certified Assessing Technician \(MCAT\) program](#), held **June 13-14**, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center in Waterford Charter Township (Oakland Co.). The exam will be June 17, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the same location. Completed [applications](#) must be received by the State Tax Commission **by May 24**. Email GastW@michigan.gov with questions.

MDOT Shared Streets and Mobility grants available

Townships looking for support for quick-build projects to improve user safety, enhance mobility and support local placemaking efforts can apply for funding under the [Michigan Shared Streets and Spaces Grant Program](#) through the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). The program's goal is to make communities more walkable, bikeable, and transit- and micromobility-friendly. MDOT will host webinars on the new program on [April 15, from 3-4 p.m.](#) and [April 19 from 10 to 11 a.m.](#) [Applications](#) are due by **June 7**. Email MDOT-SSSG-Program@michigan.gov with questions.

Reminders from BOE

Address information. The Bureau of Elections (BOE) is working with Consumers Energy and DTE to ensure early voting sites and Election Day polling places are not without power while voting is taking place. All address information in Qualified Voter File (QVF) for your township needs to be correct, valid and up to date. For prepaid postage, BOE uses the address listed as the "Business Address" in the "Clerk Contacts" module of QVF unless a mailing address is listed under the "Addresses" tab. Every correction

* [Bauckham, Thall, Seeber Kaufman& Koches PC](#)

* [Consumers Energy](#)

* [Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC](#)

* [Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C.](#)

* [Hartleb Agency](#)

* [ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

* [Rosati, Schultz, Joppich & Amtsbuechler, P.C.](#)

* [Mika Meyers, PLC](#)



incurs a fee, so please limit corrections to permanent location moves.

AV drop boxes. Jurisdictions must provide the location(s) of their absent voter (AV) drop boxes to BOE so that voters can find their locations in the Michigan Voter Information Center (MVIC). Check your township's drop box locations in QVF and update as needed, which will automatically update MVIC.

Filing deadlines for August election. Nominating petitions and Affidavits of Identity for candidates are due **April 23 at 4 p.m.** The deadline to withdraw is **April 26 at 4 p.m.** Local clerks must forward the names and addresses of the candidates to the county clerk by **April 29.** The deadline to place a local ballot question on the ballot is **April 30 at 5 p.m.** The deadline to submit the language for local ballot proposals is **May 14 at 4 p.m.**

Funding competition for coastal habitat restoration, land conservation

Townships can participate in the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE), [Michigan Coastal Management Program](#) (MCMP).



EGLE is announcing a federal funding competition being administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for coastal habitat restoration projects and land conservation projects. Funding is intended to support projects within coastal counties that protect or restore ecologically significant habitats that play a critical role in helping communities become more resilient to coastal hazards and the impacts of climate change. Funding per project may be up to \$6 million with no match expectation. The MCMP will submit up to three letters of intent (LOI) to NOAA for the competition. MCMP staff are available to discuss and advise on project concepts before submittal of LOIs. You can fill out the Project Interest Form located at [Coastal Habitat Restoration and Ecosystem Land Conservation 2024 Grant Funding Opportunity](#) and a staff member will reach out to you for further discussions. More detailed information can be found at [Coastal Management Program 2024](#).



Adopt-A-Highway clean-up starts this weekend

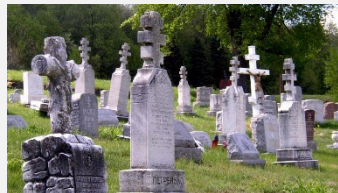
Volunteers will be picking up trash along Michigan's highways as the Adopt-A-Highway program will begin this Saturday and runs from April 13-21 in the Lower Peninsula. In the Upper Peninsula, the program runs from May 18-26. There are summer and fall pick-up dates as well. Sections of highway are still available for adoption. Groups are asked to adopt a section for at least two years. Signs bearing the group's name are posted along the stretch of adopted highway. There is no fee to participate. Go to [Adopt-A-Highway](#) for more information.

DNR looking for volunteers to monitor water quality

Volunteers are being sought by the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to assist with the [MiCorps—Lake & Stream Monitoring](#) program. The DNR will provide the training and equipment, and volunteers can choose the lake or stream they wish to monitor. There is a small fee to cover the costs of supplies and analyzing samples, but volunteers often can collaborate with local lake associations or other organizations to help pay for these costs. Visit the [MiCorps enrollment page](#) for more information.

Learn the latest on Cemetery Services at MTA's May webinar

Township cemeteries were once considered memorial parks, but over time have evolved to just being a place of burial. In today's world, families seek different options for memorializing their loved ones and now look to cemeteries for other uses, too. Join MTA's cemetery expert Cindy Dodge on **May 8 at noon** as she reviews ways your township can offer updated burial services,



incorporate your cemetery into your overall park plan, and answers your cemetery-related questions—all in just one hour! [Click here to register online now.](#)

Free webinar explores employee engagement

From talent shortages to the rise of quiet quitters, there has never been a more challenging time to attract, engage and retain a productive workforce. Township officials can join Rehmann on Wednesday, **May 1** for a free, live webinar to learn what organizations do to create an engaged workforce and walk away with best practices that can immediately begin to protect your most valuable asset—your people. [Register here.](#)

Spring weight restrictions

Beginning on Monday, April 15 at 6 a.m., the Michigan Department of Transportation will be lifting all seasonal weight restrictions from Michigan’s highways.

Federal update for week of April 8

Check out the National Association of Towns and Townships [Weekly Legislative Update](#) for an update of federal actions impacting townships.

