

*Working towards the preservation of an ecologically sound Lake Maxinkuckee and its surrounding watershed*

## **LMEF Receives Ralph C. Vonnegut Jr. Grant**

Twice each year, nonprofit organizations are invited to submit funding requests to Marshall County Community Foundation (MCCF) for projects that improve the quality of life in Marshall County. MCCF Grants Committee members evaluate the proposals and conduct site visits during a competitive application process. A separate fund, The Ralph C. Vonnegut Jr. Fund, was established to provide annual funding for environmental, educational, or recreational projects directly related to Lake Maxinkuckee.

This grant cycle, \$2,000 was awarded to the Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Fund (LMEF) from the Ralph C. Vonnegut Jr. Fund to purchase water sampling equipment to monitor water quality. With the purchase of this equipment, LMEF can expand the number of sites that have been monitored, as well as increase the frequency. According to Debbie Palmer, President LMEF, "Monitoring gives us the advance warning we need to take early action to protect the lake."

LMEF is looking for volunteers to help with this important work. Please contact the LMEF office to sign up or if you would like more information.



[Read Blog Post](#)

## **Water Quality Monitoring *The Advance Warning System***

Only monitoring gives us the advance warning we need to take early action to protect the lake. It is far more cost effective to address small problems before they can cause serious consequences.



### **Is That Fish Safe to Eat?**

I recently received notification that Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) had updated their 303(d) list, a water quality testing list used to identify and prioritize waterbodies not meeting water quality standards. I searched for waterbodies in Marshall County and was unpleasantly surprised to see Lake Maxinkuckee made the list.

[Read Full Article](#)



### **Water Pollution Begins on the Land**

Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Fund (LMEF) has contracted with Ecosystems Connections Institute (ECI) to conduct a detailed and specific study to analyze exactly what is entering the lake through the Kline Ditch. ECI is conducting a similar study at Lake Wawasee.

[Read Full Article](#)

**SB 389 Passed on 4/13/2021**

# Indiana House voted 58 to 40 to pass SB 389

- Eliminates protection of Class I wetlands
- Significantly reduces protection of Class II wetlands
- Eliminates protection of ephemeral streams
- Allows wetland development on cropland as long as the cropland was used for agriculture in the last 5 years (10 years if no federal wetlands are present)
- Creates exemptions for fixing tile drains in wetlands
- Shortens the time IDEM has to write wetland permits

Contact the [Office of the Governor](#) to support a VETO of this bill that will negatively impact Indiana wetlands!



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