



Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation Newsletter | No. 21

SPECIAL EDITION

[The AERF “reboot”: A new initiative in aquatic resource management](#)

The Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation was established in October 1996 to address specific challenges of aquatic plant management that existed at that time. Since its inception, the AERF has evolved from a primarily passive organization that sponsored and co-sponsored a wide variety of projects to an aggressive entity that is out in front of aquatics issues. The Foundation consistently provides the information needed to support balanced decisions and results and actively promotes science-based solutions using “all of the tools in the toolbox” for integrated pest management techniques.

The AERF supports research, development and outreach to provide strategies and techniques for the environmentally sound management, conservation and restoration of aquatic ecosystems. The Foundation has become the “go-to” entity for information and outreach to the public on the benefits of aquatic plant management and we continue to focus upon sound science as the best approach to support (or in some cases, to challenge) regulatory decisions. The Foundation, as always, is a trusted and reliable source of scientific information relating to aquatic plant management through efforts such as the award winning 4th edition of “Biology and Control of Aquatic Plants: A Best Management Practices Handbook”.

The AERF Board of Directors has historically been composed of “Gold Sponsors”, or donors who contribute at least \$15,000 annually to support the Foundation. This strategy has served the Foundation well in the past, but we believe that current needs for aquatic resource management and new initiatives require an AERF Board that is more representative of the resources that can be brought to bear on the emerging and exacerbating issues. As a result, we are pleased to announce a “reboot” of AERF’s leadership structure. As of January 1, 2023, ALL supporters of AERF are eligible to serve on the Board of Directors. The Foundation’s new Board structure still includes seats for members of our industry’s largest companies, but we

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now have seats held by folks from resource management companies and academia. An interim Board of Directors has been created until nominations can be received and an election held. That new AERF Board of Directors is as follows:

Executive Director: Carlton Layne

President: Bo Burns (Alligare, LLC)

Treasurer: Richard Hinterman (Cygnet Enterprises, Inc.)

Directors (industry/resource management):

Troy Goldsby (Aqua Services, Inc.)

Matt Johnson (Aquatic Control, Inc.)

Jerry Renney (Applied Aquatic Management)

Clyde Smith (UPL Limited)

Directors (academia):

Lyn Gettys (University of Florida)

Rob Richardson (North Carolina State University)

John Rodgers [Clemson University (retired)]

The interim Board composition brings a diversity of viewpoints, experience and approaches to AERF and allows us to better serve all of our supporters now and in the future. We are excited to welcome the new AERF Board of Directors and we thank the outgoing Board members Clark Boyd, Scott Jackson, Tyler Koschnick, Jeremy Slade, and Mike Owens for their service to the Foundation.

The “new” AERF has a strong core of leadership and a long list of worthwhile projects in store for 2023 and beyond. Donors provide the means for AERF to do what it does, and the Foundation’s donor support has grown as AERF has matured. As we grow, so does our ability to respond rapidly to issues the aquatic plant (including algae) management world will likely encounter in the future. The success of the AERF is due entirely to the generosity and support you’ve given through your donations. Not a donor yet? Visit our website (www.aquatics.org) and learn how you can help AERF continue our mission far into the future.

EPA to Issue “Final” Rule for WOTUS Definition

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers (CoE) are about to finalize a new definition of the “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) after the Office of Management and Budget completed their review on November 30th. This joint rule would reestablish a WOTUS standard in line with a collection of

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EPA and COE policies known as the “1986 regulations” with amendments to account for relevant U.S. Supreme Court decisions.

A Biden administration rule will thus take its place with two prior failed attempts by the Obama and Trump administration respectively to define the scope of the Clean Water Act’s jurisdiction. The EPA and COE have both said that the current effort is yet an interim step in a rewrite of the WOTUS definition.

Sackett v. EPA, a case over the jurisdictional standard for wetlands, has thrown another proverbial wrench in the works. Oral arguments were heard on October 3rd. During questioning, the justices appeared to be split along ideological lines. A written decision is unlikely until sometime in the Spring of 2023. The EPA and the COE have been urged to withhold the issuance of the current pending rule until the court’s decision can be incorporated, but the administration appears to be listening to their own drummer.

We’ll keep you informed as circumstances change.

We Need Your Help

The reboot of the AERF has not happened without substantial cost. There will be more on that in future newsletters. While we were actually in pretty good shape even with the reduced revenues during covid, this transition has definitely impacted us. Our 2022 solicitation has been delayed until now, and our cash reserves have been hit pretty hard. We’re starting 2023 with a lot of uncertainty as to what level of participation and support we will be able to provide, at least until donations start arriving.

AERF has been the “go to” entity for the past twenty-five years for participation in the regulatory process at the federal, state and local level. We’ve been THE resource for WOTUS information, and representation before the EPA and the CoE. Even during the past year with all the confusion within the AERF, we were able to work with a coalition in Wisconsin to stop an onerous regulation which would have severely impacted aquatic plant and algae management efforts in that state. We hope to get our EPA/PMRA tours back on track now that covid is mostly past us. Our education and outreach efforts are well known through our participation and support of aquatic meetings across the country, the publication and distribution (free of charge) of our Best Practices Manual for Aquatics, and stipends to get regulators and students to chapter meetings.

So – Here’s the thing! The AERF was rescued by the involvement of our sponsors/donors outside the former Gold Sponsor level who provided the majority

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of the revenues for AERF activities over the past 25 years. We need your financial support if we're going to be successful under the new AERF structure and approach. We will be communicating and requesting input regarding that structure from our sponsors as we move forward.

AERF is an IRS designated 501(3)(c), and as such your donations are tax deductible. We're hoping we can still provide the window of opportunity for those of you who want to make a donation during this tax year.

Thank you for considering supporting the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation through sponsorship donations. Your help will enable us to get back on track as soon as possible in 2023. I hope to see you at the aquatic meetings this coming year.

Carlton Layne
Executive Director.

Thank you to the aquatic societies that have forwarded this newsletter to their members

Sponsorship/Donation Form

Date: _____ Name: _____ Affiliation _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Web Address: _____ Email: _____

For more information contact:

Carlton R. Layne, Executive Director, AERF
3272 Sherman Ridge Drive
Marietta, GA 30064
Phone: 678-773-1364
Fax 770-499-0158
Email clayne@aquatics.org.

Please use the following as a guide in the selection of the desired level of Sponsorship:

Of course, you are welcome to support the AERF at any level and additional donations are appreciated.

- | | |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold | \$10,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silver | \$5,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze | \$2,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate | \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | Free |

You may make your donation through PayPal. A Paypal account isn't required.
Please visit our website at www.aquatics.org for details and links.
You will still need to submit this form separately.

Please send the completed form (and payment if by check) to:
AERF

1860 Bagwell St.
Flint, MI 48503

If you used PayPal, please submit this form to the above address, and indicate you used Paypal.