

FOR RELEASE February 15, 2023



**Contacts:**

Claire Karner  
Director of Planning & Zoning, East Bay Twp  
ckarner@eastbaytwp.org  
231-947-8681 X2

Heather Smith, Grand Traverse BAYKEEPER  
The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay  
hsmith@gtbay.org  
231-299-0118

## **East Bay Township Hosts Riparian Zoning Workshop**

*Members of the public are invited to join a community conversation the evening of February 21 at the Township Hall.*

East Bay Charter Township, MI – February 15, 2023 – East Bay Township is in the process of rewriting the Zoning Ordinance for the entire Township, based on the recently adopted community master plan. Through this public process, the topic of protecting water quality through zoning standards on inland lakes and streams, wetlands, floodplains, and on East Grand Traverse Bay has been rated a top priority by survey respondents, focus group participants, and Township officials. While East Bay Township has robust zoning standards to protect these critical resources, there is opportunity to review the ordinances to keep pace with new trends and ensure the standards are meeting the underlying protection goals of the Township.

Members of the public are invited to attend a Riparian Zoning Workshop on Tuesday, February 21 at 6:00 PM at the East Bay Township Hall (1965 N. Three Mile Road). The evening will kick-off with a series of educational presentations from the Watershed Center, Grand Traverse County, and the Township's planning consultants [Giffels Webster](#), focusing on the importance of the riparian zone and tools for protection, the state and county policy framework, and an overview of current Township zoning standards. After the presentation, attendees will break into small groups to discuss successes, challenges, and opportunities related to zoning for the water and natural resources in the Township. [Click here for a link to the agenda.](#)

A subcommittee made up of Township elected and appointed officials, staff, and legal counsel have been meeting biweekly to review and discuss possible amendments to the zoning ordinance under the guidance of a professional planning firm, [Giffels Webster](#). Recommendations from the subcommittee will be presented to the planning commission for consideration, deliberation, and public hearings. All amendments will ultimately be adopted by the Township Board. The full zoning ordinance rewrite process is expected to take approximately 11 months, and the process officially kicked off in September 2022.