LANSONG — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has appointed a Petoskey-area environmental advocate to serve on the Great Lakes Commission.

According to a press release issued Thursday, Jennifer McKay of Petoskey, policy director of the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, was designated as an alternate to the commission, as a representative of a statewide environmental organization. Her term would only expire "at the pleasure of the governor."

Other appointees include Marc E. Smith of Ann Arbor, James P. Clift of Lansing, and Kara Cook of Lansing.

"Michigan's Great Lakes are among our most vital ecological and economic resources to our state," Whitmer said. "Marc, James, Kara and Jennifer will ensure the prosperity of our Great Lakes while prioritizing Michigan's economic success and environmental quality."

Smith, the director of Conservation Partnerships for the National Wildlife Foundation of Michigan, was appointed to succeed Helen Taylor to represent statewide environmental organizations. His term expires at the pleasure of the governor.

Smith's appointment is subject to advice and consent by the Michigan Legislature.

Clift, the senior Great Lakes advisor at the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, was appointed to succeed Jon Allan for a term expiring at the pleasure of the governor.

Cook, a policy advisor for Gov. Whitmer, was designated as a commission alternate for a term expiring at the pleasure of the governor.

The Great Lakes Commission has worked with its member states and provinces to address issues of common concern, develop shared solutions, and collectively advance an agenda to protect and enhance the region's economic prosperity and environmental health.

The rest of the Michigan delegation to the Great Lakes Commission are the following members: Attorney General Dana Nessel, former state Sen. Tom Casperson as the appointee of the Senate Majority Leader, and commissioner Candice Miller as the appointee of the Speaker of the House.

Clift, McKay and Cook's appointments are not subject to advice and consent of the Senate.