

MCLA Minutes January 24th Meeting

Attendance: Bill Pohlmann, **Hartlaub**; Buck Leach, **Horse Shoe** and **Shoe**; Joe Salm & Brian Robley, **Carstens**; Carl Bonde, **Tuma**; Tom Payne & Jerry Corfman **Wilke Lake**; Dick Jens, Ken Schuler, Phil Knauf **Cedar Lake**; Robert Christian, **Horseshoe**; Kathleen Mulholland, Toni Pontar, Steve Meidl and Jerry Gospodarek, **Pigeon Lake**; Bill & Mary Braam, **Spring**; Dave Pfeffer and Randy Entringer **English Lake**; Dan Dufek, **Harpt Lake**; Anne Busse & Jaret Paltzer, **Silver**; Joseph Dworak, John Durbrow, **Lake Michigan**; Dani Santry, **Calumet RMD / Long Lake**; Myron Haberman, Tom Lambert, and Jeff Edgar **Gass Lake**.

Minutes of previous meeting were approved without change

Treasurers report shows \$10,400 in checking with approx \$4000 in both receivables and payables pending

Tom Ward's Invasive Report:

Tom Ward presented a Phase III, AIS grant application for 2013-2016, which will include funding to begin controlling mapped AIS locations along Lake Michigan and Right-of-ways. **Followed by a unanimous vote to submit a Phase III AIS grant application with a resolution by February 1st.**

A support letter is requested from Lake Associations and sportsman groups for this grant application.

Summary of Early January Meeting with the DNR

- Intent was to align MCLA and DNR goals for 2013....and improve communication

Water Testing

- Only 3% of Wisconsin lakes are chemically tested. Manitowoc is testing all lakes with public accesses
- MCLA will be performing "ice out" testing. This test is the truest indicator of a lakes health. Sample must be taken within 2 weeks of "ice out."
- MCLA expects to receive 2 additional test kits to eliminate some of the sharing of equipment between lakes.
- MCLA received a \$3000 grant to test water in 2013. The \$3000 will cover the costs for 10 lakes. MCLA will need to pickup the testing costs for 2 – 4 addition lakes.
- Manitowoc County Soil and Water Conservation Department is using the 2012 data to help communicate water issues with the Ag Communities.
- EPA Listing....Long Lake is already listed as an "impaired water." Carstens Lake will be listed as "impaired" January 2014. Lakes that are listed receive more consideration for environmental grants and assistance.

Invasives

- Hybrid Milfoil containment is a major focus.
 - There is no known treatment that fully kills hybrid milfoil. Treatments retard growth, but it comes back robustly in 6-8 weeks.

- Lakes affected in Manitowoc County are: **English, Silver, Carstens, Hartlaub and Shoe**. The DNR indicates hybrids are becoming more prevalent.
- Hybrid genetics differ based on the number of times it has cross pollinated.
- MCLA is requesting the DNR to approve through treatments at the boat landing of specific lakes. We want to reduce the risk of any vegetation to ride to the “next lake” on boat trailers and equipment. .
- **Silver** Lake anticipates the results of a plant analysis in the next couple of weeks. The recommendation likely will be to treat the Hybrid Milfoil.
- **Spring and Shoe** Lake milfoil will be reassessed by the DNR in summer of 2013 to ensure correct identification

Fisheries Management

- DNR spends approx 20% of their time on Manitowoc County Lakes.
- Lake surveys are done on a rotational basis
 - Lakes larger than 100 acres [**Long + Cedar**] receive electro-shocking and fyke net sampling.
 - All other Manitowoc lakes receive electro-shocking only.
- DNR now has the contact information for the Lake Leaders. Fish surveys can be sent to them electronically.
 - Results of the 2010 – 2012 surveys were provided. Lakes include: **Cedar, Wilke, Spring, Long, Bullhead, Silver, Harpts**
 - 2013 agenda includes Kewanee, Door, Brown County lakes and possibly **Hartlaub** [Mtwc. Co.]
 - 2014 has **Cedar, Pigeon, Horseshoe** [and possibly **Silver**]. This is subject to change.
- **Steve Hogler**, fisheries manager, will be the guest speaker at our March 28th meeting.
 - Steve’s e-mail is Steven.Hogler@Wisconsin.gov if you have a question for him before the next meeting.
- **Long Lake** carp seining is “totally experimental.” Intent is to net the carp from under the ice. There is some evidence that reducing the carp population will improve water quality.
- The DNR provided fish crib plans and guidance to **Harpt Lake**. Recommendation is to build at least 5 fish cribs to avoid targeting fish locations. Tree drops are considered a better alternative.

Miscellaneous Items

- **Cedar Lake** had a core sample preformed. Results show “better than average” retention of the lakes original characteristics.
- **Carstens Lake** is requesting a core sample to view their lake changes.

Lake Reports:

- **Cedar...** Report of one MCLA member going through the ice...driving UTV with a canvass cab. Quick thinking, a hunting knife, and super human strength allowed driver to escape after cutting an opening in the top of the cab. Driver is now in market for a new UTV... suspicion driver might be using the UTV for a fish crib.
 - Lake Association is privately funding a spring planting of walleye and perch.

- ❑ **Hartlaub**...froze over very late this year. There are reports of undersized northern and small bluegills being caught through the ice.
- ❑ **Tuma**...should not have fish kill due to the mild winter....continuing to monitor. Will be receiving last fish planting this spring....”Lots of small fish now.”
- ❑ **Lake Michigan:** Water levels are at a record low, exposing an increasing beach area...possible to walk from Red Arrow Park to Cleveland. The Bald Eagle population is really growing as they prey on dead carp washing up on the beach.
- ❑ **Horseshoe**.... Some small trout being taken through the ice.
- ❑ **Pigeon Lake:** there was overwhelming membership support to apply for a Lake Planning lake study grant this February 1st. There are currently 145 members representing 70% of the lake residents. Pigeon planted large walleyes this past fall with private donations.
- ❑ **English:** 1000 perch and walleye were planted this past fall from private funds and Walleyes Forever.
- ❑ **Gass Lake:** Association has been in operation 1 year and is trying to identify possible sources of phosphorus to the lake.
- ❑ **Harpt:** 1500 walleye 6 to 9 inches long were planted by the Larabee Sportsman Club. Three weeks ago the lake had open water.
- ❑ **Carstens Lake:** this past week the lake had 19 cars and 28 people fishing the lake a heavy ice fishing pressure. They are catching perch 3 to 5 inch in size which is a 2nd generation since the stocking. The ice at the boat landing is safer this winter as a result of the drainage tile at the boat landing diverted to a wetland to the north.
- ❑ **Silver Lake**... Waiting for the recommendations from Onterra regarding the hybrid milfoil issue. No reports of otters this winter.

Upcoming Events

- ❑ **Discovery Farms March 5 Cost \$5 includes lunch Manitowoc Office**
 - ½ day presentation....Ag Practices in Manitowoc Co...impacts of runoff and non-point pollution research.
- ❑ **Wisconsin Lake Conference April 9-11 Green Bay ~\$75 per day**
 - Hour long seminars on numerous and various lake topics
 - Hybrid Milfoil will be discussed at some length...best WI state people will be coming in for this discussion. Might be the best one day to go to the conference.
- ❑ **Next Meeting is March 28th....Featured speaker – Steve Hogler – Fish Management**