



MANITOWOC COUNTY LAKES ASSOCIATION

“The Manitowoc County Lakes Association will protect and enhance the quality of area lakes and watersheds for the benefit of all.”

Meeting minutes from 2/26/2015

John Nelson from Nature Conservancy presenting his current findings from his study of “Phosphorus Control Efforts in Sheboygan River Basin”. It is the study of two watersheds – Otter Creek (test area) and Fisher Creek (control area) watersheds.

Study started in 2011. It is a six year project.

Discussed area of study, Approach to control and gave examples of practices for improved watersheds.

Grant of \$1.6MM from Kohler for the study.

Are monitoring fish, aquatic invasive species, and collect water samples for phosphorus levels. The net of the study is to be able to calculate a phosphorus index value at the start and determine the effects of changes/practices and how it impacts the phosphorus index value. The phosphorus index (PI) was 2.84 on the control vs 2.87 for the test area.

Discussed use of multiple practices to reduce the PI.

1. Crop rotation
2. End of regular season crop planting – cover crops
3. No-till planting
4. Grassed water ways and buffers
5. Tillage and residue management
6. Managed grazing

Lessons:

1. Field by field evaluation is needed
2. Use of other models (computer) are important
3. Voluntary cooperation is needed – build trust
4. Success depends on watershed conditions
5. Cost sharing opportunity
6. Adoption dependent on bottom line for farming
7. Adoption to new practices is slow
8. Access to equipment (farming) is difficult – new equipment to improve practices to reduce run-off.

Manitowoc County Soil & Water Conservation Department passed out a survey for member to fill out. Used for 10 year plans.

Roll call – please send your name and email address to John D to be able to make an updated and current member list.

Treasurers report: \$15,452 balance. Most in grant money.

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Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention (WLPC) – 2015 conference. For all over Wisconsin, DNR, Lakes Associations. It is a 3 day event with workshops, seminars, and discussion sessions. \$165 total for the 3 days. Talk with John about details.

DNR budget – many cuts. MCLA agreed that John would draft a letter of concern and impact on Lake Associations and effectiveness of DNR. Directors to sign.

Web page: Ads (4 maximum) on web page to be set at \$250 each to help pay for web page. Currently have one, need 3 more organizations to commit to ads.

ALS Report: Need more in matching funds. All who participated in ALS monitoring should turn in their time to help the matching funds.

Currently have funds for only 2 boat inspection sites for 2015. Funding cuts are hurting this effort.

Gene W. Water Quality Monitoring: Ice out test results. Phosphorus levels in English the highest, Cedar the lowest.

Nine lakes had state funding for four tests during the year. Seven lakes had one test done and were funded by MCLS. Asked for direction if we should do more sets of test on non-state funded lakes. MCLS agreed with vote that the MCLS would fund two tests on the non-funded lakes at a total expected cost of \$450.

Will approach Fish & Game to support additional testing.

Membership list: Have 74 people on the membership list. Discussed the opportunity to be able to send the newsletter to 1,300 people. Need a membership committee and a membership drive. By-laws indicate the Secretary is a member of that committee.

Silver Lake Diversion. It was apparent from fish die-off that the diversion did not work. The oxygen levels were at only 1ppm. Need 5ppm for fish to survive. The box culvert raises more questions than answers. Civil engineering group looking into this issue. Current focus is to remove the box culvert. There is no money for put the boat ramp back in place.

The proposal is to put the boat ramp back in place. If not feasible, then put in a food bridge only. More meetings necessary to resolve this issue.

New Business:

John D trying to get Fish & Game to work with us on issues. John presented a master plan to F&G.

Proposes to bring all processes to a single planning map so all agencies can operate off the same plan(s).

Intent to improve coordination, broader spectrum of advocates, Multi-agency coordination, map existing conditions on one map and then be able to propose changing conditions effectively with public and private programs.

Any changes, additions to these minutes, please forward to me directly.

Bill Braam

Secretary, MCLS