

MCLA Minutes April 3, 2014

Lakes Represented: Carstens, Cedar, Tuma, North + South Twins, Silver, Wilke, Gass, Michigan, English, Harpt, Long, Horseshoe, Hartlaub, Weyer

Hero Recognition: Brian Robley for installing the aerators.....Weyers Lake tubing had to be rerun due to the normal tubing frozen.....this was done in -15 degree weather.

Boat Launch “Donation” Tubes.....answers to last meetings questions:

- **9 lakes have “donation” tubes**
- **MCLA receives 40% of donations after tube installation is paid off**
 - **\$400 to install each tube**
 - **MCLA uses donation dollars to treat weeds around landings**
- **80% of funds from people visiting Manitowoc**
- **75% of all money received is from Long + Cedar tubes**
- There are no additional tube installations planned for 2014

Water Testing Plans for 2014

- Wisconsin DNR added **Harpt, Gass, Wilke** Lakes to the state funded testing list [CLMN]
- Full testing [paid by the DNR] includes 4 Phosphorus Samples [includes ice out] and 3 Chlorophyll tests for:
 - Silver / Cedar / Long / Carstens / Bullhead / Pigeon / Kasbaum / Harpt / Gass / Wilke /
- MCLA pays for all additional lakes. These lakes receive only Ice Out Testing [one sample]
 - Hartlaub / English / Weyer / Spring / Shoe / Horseshoe / North + South Twin / Tuma /
- Sechi Disc readings are critical to benchmark water quality. This is an inexpensive [free] way to continue to monitor water quality.
- DNR will perform a complete plant study on Silver, Spring, and Wilke lakes in 2014. Expect to see the final results by late fall.

Invasives Report:

- Tom Ward is in the process of hiring 2 boat inspectors [instructing boaters on how to avoid moving invasives to other water bodies]
 - Weekend workpays about \$12 per hour
- Signage for the boat cleaning stations will be completed by April 20th.
- Lakes installing the cleaning stations are: Long / Cedar / Carstens / Bullhead / Long / Harpt / and either Pigeon or Wilke
- Pending activities

- April 15th Phragmites control meetingsome funding is available for a demonstration plot on Lake Michigan shores
- June 5 AIS training at Woodland Dunes
- May / June monitors should start looking for Curly-leaf Pondweed....actually grows under the ice.
- June AIS property monitoring on English and Cedar Lakes
- May MCLA meeting....expect discussion about weed treatments

Lake Reports:

- **Carstens Lake**....aerator was turned on in Mid February. Lots of fishing activity early in the winter but almost none now.
- **Cedar**....up to 24" of ice still on the lake....Walleyes were planted.....Northern seem to be getting bigger and consequently there is not as much concern about increasing the bag limit.
- **Tuma**....lots of fishing pressure early in the Winter...assuming good catches
- **South Twin**....aerator was turned on at the end of Feb. The privately owned aerator cost about \$1200 and electricity is about \$30 per month to operate. This might be an option for other lakes that are concerned about fish kills.
- **Silver** Good fishing through the winter....however, recently fishermen are reporting their minnows are dying when placed in the water...consequently there is a concern about a lack of oxygen...potentially bad news. Oxygen levels will be better closer to the ice – not as deep in the water. Last winter, oxygen levels in Silver were very acceptable.
- **Wilke** Good fishing through February with lots of Northern being caught. A truck was on Wilke March 31st
- **Gass** Dave Fischer is the new lake association president. Fish action is now close to the natural spring that keeps the water open on the North side of the lake.
- **Lake Michigan** The next step of the phragmites control plan is to target a demonstration plot.
- **English** Moderate fishing activity compared to other years....small panfish....English is monitoring their Hybrid milfoil this summer and planning to hand pull any reemerging plants....no chemical treatment in 2014
- **Harpt** Rock spawning bed has been installed [cost about \$30]....Tree drop is planned for near future....Walleyes are being planted.....Monitors will be GPS assessing the size of the eurasion milfoil.
- **Long**.... Trucks continue to drive on the lake....lots of bluegills caught through the ice this winter... eurasion milfoil is being assessed.....continuing efforts to improve the water quality
- **Horseshoe**....Keb Lake culvert froze causing the washout of the road to the lake. County had to use a steam hose to thaw the culvert – all back to normal now
- **Hartlaub**....Low fishing pressure this past winter

- **Weyers**..... aerator continues to keep a one acre sized hole open in the ice....ducks and geese are plentiful.

Fish Manager Steve Hoglers Presentation on Silver Lake

Historically Silver had a watershed of 475 acres. Water quality was very acceptable and fish and overall habitat thrived. In the 1950s the Wisconsin Highway Dept. reworked the highway and rerouted Silver Creek into the lake. This increased the watershed from 475 acres to over 20,000 acres. Water quality plummeted and the lake filled with sediment, phosphorus, and rough fish. By 1995, summer fish kills occurred.

The WDNR, Soil and Water Conservation, NRCS, and a wide range of agencies determined to turn “one of the worst lakes in Wisconsin” into something that can be enjoyed in Manitowoc.

Steve Hogler indicates major improvements were realized by:

1. Setting Goals that all agreed to....critical first step....provided long term direction and kept everyone on the same page.
 - a. Phosphorus levels
 - b. Water clarity levels
 - c. Fish management objectives
 - d. Overall habitat
2. Diversion of the stream around the lake
 - a. Major undertaking....with many challenges
 - i. It should be noted that the diversion continues to be a challenge during major rain events. Some modifications might be necessary
3. Alum treatment to bind-up the existing phosphorus in the lake
4. Restoring the fishery
 - a. Killing the existing fish population....almost all rough fish
 - b. Planting both forage and game fish

Almost all of the initial goals have been obtained. Silver Lake is now one of the jewels of Manitowoc County. It offers trophy class fishing and supports heavy fishing pressure.

Next MCLA Meeting is May 22nd