



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.”

Manitowoc County Office Complex Minutes of the May 22, 2014 Meeting

2013 – 2014 Officers:

President:
Gene Weyer
gweyer@lakefield.net
920-758-3897

Vice-President: &
Treasurer:
Jerry Corfman
corfmanpj@yahoo.com
920-894-1968

Secretary:
Char Peterson
petersononthelake@tds.net
920-853-7179

Past President:
Al Meyer
ajgm@lakefield.net

Director:
Phil Knauf
pknauf@excel.net

Director:
Jerry Gospodarek
mypaintone@yahoo.com

Director:
Chuck Kiehn
chaskiehn@wmconnect.com

Director:
Dean Vollmer
Deanohoops@att.net

Director:
Brian Robley
spoiledrott@lakefield.net

Director:
Jaret Paltzer
jpaltzer@gmail.com

Director:
Dan Dufek
danandstacie@msn.com

President Gene Weyer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Representatives in attendance were from the lakes of Bullhead, Gass, Pigeon, Spring, Harpt, Wilke, Cedar, Carstens, Hartlaub, Weyers, Silver and Lake Michigan.

Meeting Minutes: The March 2014 meeting minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Ice Out Testing: Gene Weyer provided a water quality comparison between 2013 and 2014 for those lakes that provide water samples. It is expected to see some of these levels higher for summer. The lowest were Cedar, Spring, Wilke, Tuma, Shoe & North Twin to 40; 60 & higher included Horseshoe, South Twin, Weyer, Silver, Carstens, Hartlaub, Long, and Harpt, in that respective order, with English Lake the highest. The ones that are higher have a bigger agricultural watershed influence and there was speculation the large rain with 5.5 inches may have had something to do with it.

Treasurer's Report: Jerry Corfman presented the Treasurer's Report indicated we are at breakeven right now. There is approximately a \$43,000 submission to be turned in for Phase II with 75% reimbursement. He stated Toni Pontar resigned from the Membership Committee so he is looking for someone to help him with the membership dues. He noted people can pay their annual membership dues to Jerry now.

Tile Blowout Program: There is significant phosphorous conduit from fields to lakes. NRCS will not be a new funding source. Existing NRCS programs will cover some blow-out applications. Soil and Water Dept. is looking at the possibility of additional funding through Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Silver Lake Situation: Gene stated there was an interesting situation at Silver Lake with overtopping – fish were swimming in and out. A man was catching northern by hand as they tried to swim out of the lake and into Silver Creek. Unfortunately, suckers were swimming upstream and found Silver Lake to be a good spot to stop.

The County leases the boat access and dock from the convent. The thirty year lease expired January 1, 2014. This watershed is 20,000 acres. There are PCB concerns and it would cost \$5,000 to check. Tom Ward noted when the creek was re-routed the area was demucked so there should be no concerns. The County can't go in to cut the lawn and clean garbage cans. Everything is on hold until the attorneys' work out the language and perhaps transfer the park to the county. There is also nothing planned for weed control due to the lease. The study for bridge would cost \$17,000.

Wisconsin Maritime Museum - Wendy Lutzke: Wendy explained what they do including environmental education. They serve as the host site for the Friends of the Manitowoc River watershed; they have done several beach clean-ups; helped plant grass at the Woodland Dunes; they are hosting a Project RED Program on June 7th from 9 am to 2 pm to show how to identify invasive species in your local rivers and watersheds; they adopted the lower Schuette Park and the City is thrilled they took this on. They also have the Watershed Ambassadors Summer Camp for kids including vessel experiences getting them involved with learning how to do water samplings; interact with local experts; service to the community such as storm drain stenciling and litter pick-up and then have the kids follow through with some sort of outreach project such as posters at the Woodland Dunes and Marina. They teach different programs – AIS Programs at School Forest, other school programs on aquatic invaders, Hannahs' Habitat and pollution solutions. They teach about surface runoff such as soap in a driveway when washing a car, laundry detergent, etc.... A grant fund through the DNR created an AIS lab at the museum and help from the grant, DNR & Tom Ward giving them samples to use. She also reported they have an exhibit: America's Great Loop – understanding our sense of place in the big picture to understand care of our waterways. She invited MCLA to hold a meeting at the museum.

AIS Report: Tom Ward reported on the paid boat inspectors. There are two positions with one to be filled yet. The pay is \$12/hr. This is the last year for the AIS grant for the paid boat inspectors. We need a 25% match in hours. He stated volunteers helping on weekends will be critical to meet this match. He also spoke on the ice pack for fish instead of using a bucket of water when fishing.

June 4th at 6:00 pm there will be a panel discussion on invasive species in Manitowoc County. Tom Ward will cover "The Dirty Dozen Invasive Species in the County"; Jennifer Powell will discuss "Lakeshore Invasive Species Management Area"; and Jim Knickelbine will touch on "Restore the Shore, Learn how you can get involved as a citizen volunteer monitor right in your own backyard!"

- June 5th at 6:30 pm is the next AIS Monitor Training at the Woodland Dunes.
- June 14th in the morning there will be a "seek and destroy group AIS monitoring party at Cedar Lake to scan the lake for any Eurasian milfoil plants.
- June 21/22 starts the statewide drain campaign to place emphasis on draining your boat and placing fish on ice using ice packs.
- Monitors start checking for curly leaf pond weed in May/June.
- The landing blitz is July 3-6 and need as many volunteers and boat inspectors as possible for the boat landings during this time. The DNR tallies how many boats are inspected during this weekend. Tom has the new inspection form designed to be more educational.

AIS Strategic Plan: Tom reported Phase II will be closed June 30th and provided a summary on the four goals: 1) 82 trained monitors and continue to build this volunteer force to actively monitor lakes and streams of the county for AIS; 2) continue Clean Boat Inspection Program by maintaining over 3,000 contacts with boaters/season and install seven more cleaning stations to encourage boaters to sanitize with bleach solutions to prevent spread of AIS organisms; 3) reach public, landowners and town officials through education to create understanding that everyone needs to act to prevent the spread of invasive species. Continue public outreach with the fair booth and public events. County Board Supervisor Holschbach brought forth a

resolution that phragmites are a major threat to the shoreline and need to “restore the shore”. The next step is to get phragmites in the noxious weed ordinance; 4) continue the county-wide program to identify and map known outbreaks of invasives, coordinate a county wide control plan. On Sept. 20th there will be an introduction demo area on the Lake Michigan shoreline with place to be determined. Tom will continue to coordinate and facilitate fundraising and grant applications of the MCLA partners and stakeholders to control and reduce the spread of AIS species.

Lake Property Zoning: The mandate has been moved back to May 2016 and cannot be more restrictive than state law. They are working on mitigation points and will use the following lake classification.

- High Density – English, Pigeon, Cedar, Wilke
- Medium Density – Carstens, Horseshoe, Spring, Tuma, Bullhead, Gass, Long
- Low Density – Shoe, Hartlaub, Weyers, Harpt, Silver

Miscellaneous:

- Secchi readings can be submitted through the website or on paper.
- Looking for a lake to host the annual Banquet. The banquet will be on Friday, Oct. 17th.
- What are the lake expectations? Winter meeting?
- Next meeting talk about two to three lakes sit down with the DNR to discuss what we should expect to get some long term expectations for the landowners.
- Tom shared material to post at the boat landing kiosks. He urged placing the county map there too if there is room.

Lake Reports:

Carstens - real brown and dirty water with a couple of people fishing.
Cedar - clean right now; 17.1 ft. Secchi test last week; see minimal aquatic plants coming up. Ditch on west side of boat landing; will put a diversion on culvert so slow down the runoff.
Wilke - no fish kill; slow fishing with just a few boats; pretty cold. They will be meeting with Mike Arrowwood to give them an idea what they can do to get walleye in there. DNR was out on their lake; putting up new sign at launch for boating hours and power loading.
South Twin - had a pretty good freeze out; seagulls landing like crazy; he found 160 dead fish – northern, bass.
North Twin - no fish kill.
Bullhead - lots of algae forming and the water was very clear; not many people fishing; no fish kill to speak of; had a carp group out one night going around the lake.
Harpts - doing the tree drops on Saturday morning for fish structure.
Lake MI - covered previously in the meeting (see notes above).
Silver - ice was out Apr. 17th; couple of dead fish but nothing serious – bullhead and small perch. Secchi test was 2 ½ feet. Would like to know why cormorants are protected in WI and not in other states?
Spring - no winter kill; fishing is light; ice went out on Apr. 17th; will have plant study this summer. DNR needs to contact Spring Lake for study.
Pigeon - DNR shocked and netted the lake hitting a 29” walleye and perch. They will come back again later this year. Their golf outing at Autumn Ridge is coming up and invites will be going out.
Gass - lot of people fishing; they are catching good size blue gill; water cleared up in the last two weeks.
Hartlaub - catching bass, northern and good size crappie and; water temperature is going up 2 degrees/day. They had a night time carp group out there at least three times.
Weyer - lake has been pretty quiet; didn’t see any dead fish; had a tree drop.

The next meeting is **Thursday, July 24, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Manitowoc County Office Complex on Expo Drive. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.