



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 September 25, 2014 Meeting

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

Representatives in attendance were from the lakes of Bullhead, Carstens, Cedar, Harpt, Silver, Twin Lakes, Lake Michigan, Gass, English, Tuma, Horseshoe, Shoe, Wilke, Pigeon, Spring, Hartlaub, Weyer and Cedar.

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

Treasurer’s Report: Jerry Corfman presented the Treasurer’s Report indicating he received the last payment in September from the 2010 Grant and it is closed out. The current checkbook balance is \$25,087.41.

Lake Reports:

Carstens - They have a new bathroom, 4 ft. Secchi test reading, trees have been cut down.

Cedar - 13.3 ft. Secchi test reading; waiting for the county to fix the boat landing and the county is waiting for DNR permit.

Harpts - On Labor Day weekend, they were on Ch. 11 news regarding the boat cleaning station. In July, they had Mike McCarthy filming a Cellcom commercial on the lake. A culvert was replaced.

Silver - Overtopping remedial action had Highway Commissioner Gary Kennedy get involved – needed a current hydrology study that is now underway. The convent, county and town came up with money for the study. Some brush cutting is going on in the channel. The Secchi test reading increased a lot over last one.

Twin Lake - They have more coontail this year.

Lake MI - They had a successful educational phragmites treatment meeting on Sept. 20 at a private residence on a bluff. On Monday, they started a treatment for one mile. Next step will be in current funding for follow-up treatments with a 90% kill. Grant for hopefully taking care of the whole shoreline. The beach is not accessible in those areas where phragmites infestation took over.

Gass - They have been taking water samples for phosphorus and it is up again. The Secchi test reading showed 4.5 to 5 feet early and 9.5 to 10 feet readings in August and September. 10 feet is double what they had over last year.

- English -** Their Secchi test came in at 11.5 feet two weeks ago. The hybrid milfoil is back in several places. They pulled the roots but didn't get it all.
- Tuma -** The DNR tested earlier this month and found Eurasian milfoil and striped snails. They had panfish stocked today.
- Horseshoe -** Their Secchi test reading was at 8 feet.
- Shoe -** Their lake is muddy and had only 4 feet Secchi test reading on water clarity.
- Wilke -** They had a 12 foot Secchi reading last year and this year it is only 8 feet.
- Pigeon -** The fishing is sparse; the boat landing received a facelift by eliminating unnecessary signage, added a picnic table and boat cleaning station. The Lake Study has been completed. The study was a combination of using the 2005 Study. The report cost their Association \$1,400 and a \$10,000 grant. They now have an approved lake plan.
- Spring -** Out of 91 samples, there were not Eurasian milfoil. Found brown bandit and purple loosestrife as deep as 17 to 19 feet.
- Bullhead -** Discussed a proposed plan for algae removal (for 2015), which is the biggest nuisance for fisherman and landowners on the lake. The hope is to cost effectively remove algae with little to no impact on the lake, while over time lowering the nutrient content available to invasive weeds on the lake floor. The DNR permit for harvesting would be \$300. The proposal is to use floating barriers similar to those used to clean up oil slicks or those used for cranberry harvesting to collect the floating algae found on the top few inches of the lake. The algae would be dragged to a location such as the boat landing for collection. A vacuum tanker would be used to suck the algae off the lake surface where it would be transported to an anaerobic digester. This would kill any invasive weed seeds that might happen to be transported with the algae.
- Hartlaub -** It appears the hybrid Eurasian milfoil is down this year.
- Weyer -** they have big panfish early ice out for fishing.
- Cedar -** They did a Plant Study five years ago and received a three-quarter matching grant. They paid 25% of \$12,000. Cedar is a 145 acre lake and the going rate for ag land is \$14,000 per acre right now.

Annual MCLA Banquet: The banquet will be on Friday, October 17th hosted by Pigeon Lake at Autumn Ridge Golf Club, One Straight Drive, Valders. Cocktails @ 5:30 p.m. cash bar and dinner @ 6:30 p.m. The featured speaker will be Charlie Marks, who administers the Big Green Lake Watershed. There will be elections for President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary and Lake Stewardship Award presented to the Drisco's for the pond put in.

Banquet tickets are \$20 per person at the door. There will be door prizes and a raffle. Last year 70% of attendees received a door prize. Call your Lake Representative to reserve your tickets! It's important to have an accurate count for food preparation.

Water Quality Summary: MCLA tests all 16 lakes with public access. Only 3% of lakes are tested statewide. All the lakes in Manitowoc County are tested. Discussed the ice out phosphorus testing results showing 2013 and 2014 lake comparison and showed a three year average. The next steps for testing in 2014 – there are 7 self-funded lakes; compare watershed to lake acreage and discuss understanding and locating tile drainage systems. President Gene Weyer distributed a brochure on “Tile Drainage in Wisconsin”.

AIS Report: Tom Ward reported September is the end of the monitoring season. He needs the weed hours spent looking for AIS as our 25% grant match in hours. In late July/August is the season to cut teasel to prevent it from going to seed. The volunteers were very active once again. The larvae damage on the invasive purple loosestrife was a success of bio-control. This was the first year phragmites is spreading on the

Lake Michigan beach in Two Rivers. He thanked all the volunteers who worked at the Fair Booth. It was a **Steve Hogler, Biologist in Manitowoc – Featured Speaker:** He spoke on panfish management challenges (i.e. predators, growth variables due to water quality and habitats) and the “Proposed Panfish Management Plan 2014/2015”. Bluegills have seen a significant decrease in size the last 50 to 60 years. This is the same trend for black crappie and yellow perch. Angler harvest of panfish 1998 – 2008:

70% (6-8 inches) Bluegills

70% (7-10 inches) Black crappie

70% (8-11 inches) Yellow perch

He noted anglers have an impact on size distribution of panfish in lakes. It takes a fish 5 years to be 6 inches and 7 years to be 8 inches from angler harvest. Bullhead Lake is the only lake that had panfish 10 years old and 8-10 inches in length. All other lakes in the county were less.

What is next? The DNR is gathering input across the state to develop proposed regulations. He submitted 20 lakes to the DNR and only 5 lakes were selected. The State DNR made those selections based upon multiple surveys submitted over the last ten years by these lakes. The five lakes selected in Manitowoc County to have a **proposed** daily bag limit are:

Bullhead – 15/5

English – 15/5

Harpt – 25/10

Pigeon – 25/10

Long Lake – 25, only 5 > 7 inches

For example, this means that the proposed daily bag limit would be 15 with not more than five of 1 kind for Bullhead and English.

The proposed daily bag limits would have to be approved at the 2015 Spring Hearings and if approved, would be implemented in spring 2016.

Steve Hogler also mentioned there were two “Creel Surveys” completed on Bullhead Lake and Long Lake which shows the fishing pressure per surface acre. There were 191 fishing hours per surface acre for Bullhead and 45 fishing hours per surface acre for Long Lake. Normal is 20 or 30 hours per surface acre.

Steve Hogler may be reached at 920-662-5480 or email: steven.hogler@wisconsin.gov

Miscellaneous:

- Secchi readings can be submitted through the website or on paper to Tom Ward or Gene Weyer for those lakes that have not done so already.

The next meeting has been moved to **Thursday, December 4, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Manitowoc County Office Complex on Expo Drive due to the Thanksgiving Holiday at the end of November.