



# 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.”*

MCLA Meeting, May 28, 2015

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In attendance: See associated scanned list of attendees

President John Durbrow called the meeting to order and introduced guest speaker Gary Van Vreede from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Gary provided some personal background information and explained that he would provide a brief synopsis of what the “Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program” is all about. He stated he would then like to have an open discussion and he would answer any questions that he could. One of the most recently completed high profile programs was the conversion of what had been the “Squires” golf course near Port Washington back to a native state for the purpose of providing habitat and safe resting area for many migratory birds in their flyway.

Gary can be contacted at [garyvanvreede@fws.gov](mailto:garyvanvreede@fws.gov).

### Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program Mission

The program works with private landowners to improve fish and wildlife habitat on their lands. PF&W are leaders in voluntary, community-based stewardship for fish and wildlife conservation.

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/partners/getinvolved.html>

Gary explained that in addition to the mission the program intends to benefit hydrology and water quality by restoring wetland and grassland habitat for better water filtration. Non-native plants may be targeted for removal.

This is a program of technical and financial assistance and is open to anyone to inquire about. It starts with a conversation with Gary and the landowner to discuss what the landowner’s objectives are for the proposed site. If there seems to be a possible fit into the program, Gary will visit the site to assess the goals and objectives and determine what (if anything) can be done within the scope of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. If the objectives or the site assessment do not pair well with the program, Gary may be able to direct the landowner to other agencies or organizations that may be better suited to help achieve the landowner’s goals.

As a general statement, land parcels of less than 5 acres will not be suited for this program on their own. Smaller areas could possibly be integrated as a part of a larger territorial program (as part of a school program for example). In addition the program cannot work with federally owned lands or state wildlife land.

The program is generally limited to about a \$10,000 maximum dollar amount per project based upon the cost verses benefit assessment. The cost share with the landowner would need to be determined. Once the project is agreed to, the landowner enters a 10 year agreement with then US Fish and Wildlife Program to not mitigate the agreed upon restoration. If the landowner opts out they would be subject to repayment of the cost sharing assistance. The private land that is restored does not need to be open to the public for viewing and the program does not make scheduled payments to landowners. There is generally not a monitoring schedule of compliance on the property by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. It is incumbent upon the landowner to follow through with the 10 year commitment to maintain the restoration that was completed.

A very good question and answer and discussion period between Gary and the attendees followed.

Lastly, MCLA past President Gene Weyer has had personal experience with the program and stated it is a very easy governmental agency to work with.

#### Lake Reports

Silver – Boat cleaning station is up and operative and being used. There was not a big winter fish kill that had been predicted earlier based upon oxygen level readings taken through the ice. General consensus was reached that all parties involved are in favor of the diversion project. The boat landing issues that are leading to frequent flooding will be reworked at some point as part of this project.

Cedar – Secci reading at 24 feet at ice out. Approximately 5 boats were on the lake on opening day of fishing season. There have been a few low water level complaints. There has been conversation with the Schleswig Town Board regarding a wake size ordinance due to wake boarders but that has been tabled at this point and the proposal may be redirected towards wake surfing which can create wakes that are up to 2 feet higher than wake boarding. (note that MCLA board decided to take no stance on this issue at their last board meeting)

Long - Secci reading at 1.5 feet at ice out, water was very dark and murky with a dark red color. Concern was voiced regarding possible runoff from Calumet County. \ Boat cleaning station is up and operative and being used sporadically. Annual meeting is scheduled for the end of June.

Wilke – Tom Payne was officially elected as the WLAA director to MCLA at the 5/24 meeting. Town of Schleswig Sanitary district #2 has started the investigation into replacing the now 10 year old weed harvester. This will eventually mean that the current machine will be available for resale to any organization or individual that may be interested.

English – A new culvert was installed that may be allowing a more direct runoff path to the lake.

Hartlaub- More EWM is evident as compared to last year but it is currently not being treated.

Horseshoe – EWM (or Hybrid or native milfoil) is taking over the lily pad areas

Weyers – Oxygen level readings were taken which indicate relatively poor water quality. The DNR is picking up the costs for testing for the balance of this year (they are also going to cover the cost for Horseshoe lake as well)

Twin - Secci reading at 5 to 6 feet at ice out. The aerator was started at some point over the winter and no winter fish kill was observed

Lake Michigan – The LNRP phragmites grant went through, permission letters to treat were sent out to the landowners and there has been high response so far. The treatment area may move further inland as higher Lake Michigan water levels have diminished the beach areas that were infected. This may mean that any inland estuaries or watersheds to Lake Michigan in Manitowoc County could be treated.

Tuma – President Durbrow reported that a \$50 check was received from the Larrabee Sportsman Club to cover the cost of water testing

No reports were given for Bullhead, Harpt, Kassbaum, Carstens, Sy, Shoe and Spring Lakes

Treasurer's report was read by President Durbrow in absence of Treasurer Dick Gens.

Beginning checkbook balance was \$15,452.30

Deposits of \$495

Disbursements of \$6471

Current balance of \$9476.30

#### Communications

Gene Weyer and John Durbow are attending regular meetings with the soil and water conservation department to help develop the 10 year master plan and the department seems genuinely interested in the viewpoint of MCLA

There has been discussion with the Lakeshore Economic Development program to promote water issues and those discussions have been well received

Incoming communication was received regarding phosphorous credits for utilities to pay farmers to buy additional credits. A discussion was had that all parties need to be responsible and a motion was made to have MCLA draft a letter to respond by the 6/11/15 deadline. There was not a second on the motion so upon further discussion, it was determined that any responses would be upon personal initiative by members.

Tom Ward will be running an AIS monitor training session at Woodland Dunes on 6/24/15. Contact him if interested in attending this session

#### Old business

None

#### New business

Proposed Constitution and By-Law changes can be viewed on the link on the MCLA website

There is an opening for one CBCW boat inspector at \$12/hr. Contact Tom Ward if you have interest or know of anyone that may. Please help in the Drain Campaign (weekend of 6/13 & 14?) and get an ice pack. Also please help out at your boat landing with the Landing Blitz on 7/4/15.

MCLA is trying to garner a meeting with the Manitowoc County Highway and Parks department to determine why the promised redirection of some of the voluntary boat tube donations has never been sent to MCLA.

Dave Pozorski asked for pictures to be used the next newsletter. Just about anything can be used as long as it relates to how the waters are being used or protected.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 7/23/15 at 6:30 PM. Steve Hogler will be the guest speaker. Various fisheries may be discussed as well as what is going on in Silver Lake. The DNR and MCLA both have vested interests in Silver Lake. Are there predictive and contingency plans for possible winter fish kills?

Motion to adjourn at 8:30 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted

Jerry Corfman – VP (in absence of Secretary Bill Braam)

June 2, 2015