



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."

General Membership Meeting

2-26-26 6:30 pm

Room 300, Soil & Water Conservation Building
4219 Expo Drive, Manitowoc, WI 54245

MEETING MINUTES:

- Called to order by Maria Lynch, vice president.

Jason Breeggemann, Senior Fisheries Biologist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Long Lake & Bullhead Lake Fisheries Surveys:

- Fyke netting is done as soon as possible after ice out and targets Northern and Walleye along with some Crappie and Panfish.
- Electrofishing is done when the water temperature is between 60 and 70° and targets Largemouth bass and Panfish.
- Each fish is measured, gender determined and aged.
- The number of fish species are recorded along with any fin clips.
- Catch rates are determined by keeping track of the number of nights for fyke nets and number of miles for electrofishing.
- Statistics are compared to the state's average.
- Lakes are managed for a balanced fish population of both small and large fish.

Long Lake Fish Survey 2025

- Survey looked at the natural reproduction of Northern Pike and if the Panfish regulations were working.
- Fyke nets were set on 3/17/25 for 24 net nights. 3,396 fish and 13 species were caught.
- Electrofishing was done on 5/13/25 for 1 mile of dip all and 1.95 miles for game fish. 296 fish and 10 species were caught.
- 86 Northern Pike were caught. 50 were unique and 36 were recapture. It showed the lake to be in the 71st percentile with other lakes in WI. There was a good mix of small and large Pike. The population appears to be very healthy.
- 1,367 Crappies were caught. It showed the lake to be in the 96th percentile with other lakes in WI. Growth rate slowed after the crappie hit the 9" to 10" range. The population appears to be very healthy.
- 1,782 Bluegill were caught. It showed the lake to be in the 95th percentile with other lakes in WI. The growth rate was good and showed a moderate to high population.
- Effective 4-1-26 the panfish regulation is changing to 25 fish aggregate bag limit with not more than 5 bluegill. This will hopefully reduce some of the crappie density and protect a quality bluegill fishery.

(continued)

2025-2026 Officers:

President: Jerry Corfman

Vice President: Maria Lynch

Treasurer: Marcia Salm

Secretary: Scott Umland

Press Sec: Roger Vander Logt

Past President:

Tom Ward

Lake Directors

Bullhead Lake

Ron Gerrits

Carstens Lake

Brian Robley

Cedar Lake

Mary Ann Waldbauer

Mike Strebe

English Lake

Kim Braun

Gass Lake

Richard Blashka

Harpt and Tuma Lakes

Dan Dufek

Hartlaub Lake

Gene Weyer

Horseshoe Lake

Matt Piper

Lake Michigan

John S. Durbrow

Long Lake

Chuck Kiehn

Pigeon Lake

Randy Steinbruecker

Silver Lake

Brett Hubbart

Spring Lake

vacant

Wilke Lake

Fred Ruszkiewicz

Bullhead Lake Fish Survey 2025

- Yellow bass have been caught.
- Fyke nets were set on 3/18/25 for 25 net nights. 283 fish and 9 species were caught.
- Electrofishing was done on 5/19/25 for 1.25 miles of dip all. 348 fish and 5 species were caught.
- 143 Northern Pike were caught. 48 were unique and 95 were recapture. It showed the lake to be in the 82nd percentile with other lakes in WI. It showed a lack of young fish with majority being 7 years old and older. This could be from a high bass population.
- 5 Walleye were caught. It showed the lake to be in the 10th percentile with other lakes in WI.
- 272 Largemouth Bass were caught. It showed the lake to be in the 99th percentile with other lakes in WI. The lake has a very high density of bass with a poor growth rate. The average length of 10.4"
- 66 Bluegill were caught. It showed the lake to be in the 37th percentile with other lakes in WI. The growth rates were very good. There is evidence that the bigger bluegill may be being harvested.
- 2 Crappie and 2 Yellow Perch were caught.

Summary and Management Recommendations:

- Long Lake:

Northern pike:

Moderate – high density northern pike population. Good growth and size structure. Strong evidence of enough natural reproduction to sustain population. Monitor for continued natural reproduction in future

Panfish:

Black crappie: Very high density black crappie population. Growth tops out at 9-10 inches.

Bluegill:

Moderate – high density bluegill population. Good growth rates and size structure.

Change panfish regulation to 25 aggregate bag limit but no more than 5 bluegill on April 1, 2026.

Reduce density of black crappies. Protect quality bluegill fishery.

- Bullhead Lake:

Panfish Bluegill: Low – moderate density bluegill population. Good growth potential. Few very large bluegills. Overharvest?

Black crappie and yellow perch:

Only two of each species captured. Excess predation.

Change panfish regulation to an aggregate bag limit of 10 panfish on April 1, 2026.

New Regulations effective 4-1-26:

- **Cedar Lake** Northern pike 25 – 35 inch protected slot limit with daily bag limit of 2; Daily bag limit of 10 panfish with no more than 5 bluegill
- **Silver Lake** Northern pike 26 inch minimum length limit with daily bag limit of 2
- **Bullhead Lake and Pigeon Lake** Daily bag limit of 10 panfish
- **English Lake** Daily bag limit of 10 panfish with no more than 5 bluegill
- **Harpt Lake** Daily bag limit of 10 panfish with no more than 5 yellow perch
- **Long Lake** Daily bag limit of 25 panfish with no more than 5 bluegill

2025 Stocking:

Wilke, Pigeon, Silver, English, Harpt, Long, and Bullhead: 5 per acre for a total of 2,605 large fingerling walleye.

Cedar: 5,267 small fingerling walleye.

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Silver Lake Fish Kill

- Reported on 1/26/2026. Not catching fish or seeing fish on electronics and dead minnows.
- Site visit 1/27/2026; Very low dissolved oxygen at 12 locations; Dead panfish in SW corner of lake.
- Collected water quality samples on 1/28/2026—E coli, Biochemical oxygen demand, Nutrients
- E coli results within normal range Not manure spill
- Internal loading? Late fall algal bloom? Late fall stratification?
- Becker Lake in Calumet County also experience a winter kill.

Other:

- Jason mentioned that Harpt Lake is due for a survey in 2026.
- He also mentioned to check the requirements and get a permit if needed for fishing tournaments.
- Jason's presentation is available on the MCLA website.

General Business Meeting

- **Secretary's Report:** Reading of the last meeting minutes waived. They are on the MCLA website.
- **Treasurer's Report:**
 - \$11,707.89 balance in general account**
 - \$162.59 dues for mailing to Office Max / Dave Pozorski reimbursement.
 - \$100.00 to Manitowoc Cty Fish & Game for MCLA representatives of Dan Dufek & Joe Kopplinger.
 - \$6,332.96 balance in grant account**
 - \$23.19 GoDaddy domain renewal / Amy Pace reimbursement
 - \$1,750 Glacierland for 2026 matching fund CBCW
- Memberships: 45
- Lake Associations: 5
- Website Ad Sponsors: 2
- Individual Donors: 11
- Lifetime Members: 4
- **Future meetings:**
4-23-26 at Soil and Water room 300. 6-25-26, 8-27-26, 10-17-26 annual banquet at Autumn Ridge Golf Course, 5:00 social hour and 6:00 dinner. Host is Cedar Lake.

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Lake and Other Reports/Open Discussion

- **Bullhead Lake:** There has been a lot of fishing pressure. The lake stocks perch and have been asking fishermen to release perch under 7½ inches. The new dock that was installed is very nice and very appreciated.
- **Carsten's Lake:** The aerator was started. Oxygen level was the same at all depths of water. Fish are still being caught.
- **Cedar Lake:** Changes to wake surfing is going slow. The township should be addressing it again at the 3/11/26 meeting. There have been 14 single tree drops.
- **Cedar Lake/Sanitary District 1, Township of Schleswig:** No Report
- **English Lake:** Fishing pressure has been high.
- **Gass Lake:** No Report
- **Harpt Lake:** No Report
- **Hartlaub Lake:** No Report
- **Horseshoe Lake:** No Report
- **Kasbaum Lake:** No Report
- **Lake Michigan:** No Report
- **Long Lake:** No Report
- **Pigeon Lake:** Pursuing a wake surfing ordinance with the Town of Liberty.
- **Little Pigeon:** No Report
- **Shoe Lake:** No Report
- **Silver Lake:** It's a wait and see on how bad the winter kill will be. Fyke netting and electrofishing to be pursued after ice out.
- **Spring Lake:** No Report
- **Sy Lake:** No Report
- **Tuma Lake:** No Report
- **Twin Lake:** No Report
- **Weyers Lake:** New aerator signage is needed. Fencing is not needed with a good sign per MCLA insurance carrier.
- **Wilke Lake:** No Report

Soil and Water

Dave Wetenkamp

- Mobile learning Lab process is going well. Funding will be approximately \$32,000. Contributors are allowed to put their logo on the trailer.
- Manitowoc County 10-year land & water resource management plan has been updated and approved by the state and county board for 2026-2035. There was a press release on the use of a 5-year.
- Manure & Waste Application Form being used to substantiate the land base for nutrient mgmt plans prior to approving farm expansions. They are seeking opinions. The land conservation committee meeting is scheduled for 3/19/26 in Rm 300 of Soil & Water Bldg at 4:45pm. The public is welcome to this meeting.

Jerry Halverson

- Manitowoc County adopted the livestock facility license ordinance in 2007 under state rule ATCP 51, which requires farms over 750 Animal units to obtain a license.
- Farms were required to update their 5-Year nutrient management plan and notify all their renters and get signatures from them to document the farm has an adequate land base for applying manure.
- Land spreading is the most common used method of applying manure. In the past a landowner's signature was required to prove where the manure was to be spread. The signature requirement has been challenged by farms and the Land Conservation committee to have this process be removed.
- The current manure application form signature process has worked well for many years and should be continued.

Motion

- A motion was made by Brett Hubbartt and seconded by Vince Miller:
- ***To help reduce the risk of wastewater entering the counties streams and lakes, Manitowoc County Lakes Association supports the signed spreading agreement for a livestock facility license.***
- The motion passed unanimously

Manitowoc County Fish & Game: No Report

- Let MCLA's executive committee know if you wish to nominate for someone for a Lake Stewardship Award.
- Dave Pozorski is looking for past newsletters to be put on the MCLA website;
- Please start getting articles together for the next newsletter.

Motion to adjourn made by Brett Hubbartt; Dave Pozorski 2nd. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Scott Umland,
MCLA Secretary