



MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

May 2015

www.mwai.org

MWA Mission Statement “This corporation is formed to protect, preserve and promote the wise use of inland waters – lakes, streams, rivers, creeks and the waters and bottomlands of the state of Michigan.

Presidents’ Corner

By Bob Frye

Dear Individual Members and Lake Association MWA Members.

I would like to invite you to the MWA Annual meeting that will take place in Lansing on June 11, 2015, at the meeting room at Karoub Associates at 121 W Allegan St. The meeting will start at 10AM.

The agenda will include various reports including the following:

Swimmers itch update from the Michigan Swimmers Itch Partnership

The update on the refusal of the Supreme Court to hear the Holton vs Ward case and what it means to owners of property that fronts man made lakes in Michigan.

Report on the status of the DNR Good neighbor policy at Eagle Lake and how it pertains to opening up new access launch ramps without regard to the spread of Aquatic invasive species.

An update on Senate Bill 104 that would allow local governments to charge launch fees to allow lake users to help fund the prevention, control and eradication of Aquatic invasive species.

An update on Senate bills 39 & 40 regarding DNR land acquisition, land use and DNR contributions (swamp tax) to local governments.

A membership discussion of the MWA legislative and judicial goals and their priorities.

There will also be a question and answer session enabling members to ask the MWA Board and Matt Kurta, our lobbyist representing Karoub Associates, questions.

Looking forward to seeing you in Lansing on Thursday June 11 at 10 am in Lansing.

Sincerely,

Bob Frye, President, MWA
skibones@aol.com



MWA Legislative Update – May 2015

MWA Invited to Participate in Land Use Workgroup

Michigan Waterfront Alliance has been invited to participate in an ongoing workgroup process with respect to how to best manage public lands in Michigan. Public Act 294 of 2012 enacted limits on the ability of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to expand state land holdings due to concerns from local units of government and citizens in Northern Lower Michigan and the Upper Peninsula about erosion of tax base and lack of local input in state land management decisions. The Act requires the DNR to develop a strategic plan to guide acquisition and disposition of state land managed by the Department, and includes caps on state acquisition of surface rights as follows:

- Before May 1, 2015, the DNR may not acquire statewide surface rights to more than 4,626,000 acres of land statewide
- Beginning May 1, 2015, the DNR may not acquire surface rights to land north of the Mason-Arenac County line if it will result in ownership of more than 3,910,000 acres north of that line.

The net effect of these caps is that the statewide land cap comes off on May 1 without legislative action, but the DNR must present a strategic plan for legislative approval to acquire land in excess of the 3,910,000 acre cap north of the Mason-Arenac line beginning on that date as well. The cap numbers were arrived upon after negotiations between the DNR and legislators to respect prior agreements and allow a small "cushion" for DNR land purchases as the strategic plan was under development.

Senate Bills 39 and 40, sponsored by Senators Tom Casperson (R-Escanaba) and Darwin Booher (R-Ewart) would eliminate the northern Michigan land acquisition cap if the following conditions were met by the DNR:

- Legislative adoption of a land management strategic plan presented by the DNR.
- Payment in full of DNR payments-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILT) on DNR-owned land to local jurisdictions, and,
- Authorization to pay taxes and assessments on state land out of the Land Exchange Facilitation Fund

MWA appreciates the bill sponsors' concerns that the state should ensure proper management of lands already owned before acquiring more parcels. For example, if the DNR owns a majority of property around an inland lake, shouldn't the DNR be required to contribute at least in part to the burden of aquatic invasive species management that inevitably falls to riparians? We intend to participate in the workgroup process in order to protect the rights of riparian property owners and the rights of local units of government to have a say in DNR land management.

An analysis of the Senate-passed package is available here:

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2013-2014/billanalysis/Senate/pdf/2013-SFA-5477-U.pdf>

(For review of other watershed legislative matters, see our web site - <http://www.mwai.org/>)

MICHIGAN chapter NORTH AMERICAN LAKE MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

McNALMS includes members from state, federal and local agencies as well as professionals working in limnology, biology, fisheries, recreation, and engineering. Through this affiliation, McNALMS is able to draw on the expertise of scientists, engineers, policymakers, and citizens from throughout the world.

McNALMS

- Provides articles on Lake Management (water quality, aquatic plants, fish, exotic species and other topics.)
- Encourages cooperation and interaction among lake and watershed managers to address problems impacting Michigan's lakes.
- Promotes the sharing of information and experiences on scientific, financial, administrative, legal, and legislative aspects of lake and watershed management and policy and legislation influence.
- Fosters the development of lake restoration and protection programs at local, state, and national levels.
- Provides education through our web site, newsletters, and an Annual Fall Conference.
- Provides a forum for citizens and managers to share ideas and promote common objectives

Dues are \$25 for an Individual Member, \$50 for a Lake Board /Association/Non-profit membership, \$100 for a Corporation membership

For more information and/or a membership application, visit us at www.mcnalms.org

Michigan Lake and Stream Associations

News and Views for Spring of 2015

By Scott Brown, ML&SA Executive Director

ML&SA is pleased to announce a successful Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (MISGP) application focused on re-vitalizing the Michigan Clean Boats, Clean Waters program. Over the course of the next eighteen months, ML&SA will work closely with Michigan State University Extension and lake communities throughout Michigan in building a re-vitalized statewide program. ML&SA will also be launching a new website dedicated to publicizing and providing information relative to the importance of the statewide program in thwarting the spread of aquatic invasive species. For more information regarding the Michigan Clean Boats, Clean Waters program, please contact Beth Clawson, MSU Extension Clean Boats, Clean Waters educator at e-mail clawsonb@anr.msu.edu or Scott Brown, ML&SA Executive Director at e-mail sbrown@mlswa.org. The Michigan Clean Boats, Clean Waters program is an outstanding volunteer opportunity for those willing to devote a bit of time in helping to stop the influx of aquatic invasive species into our inland lakes. Get involved today – become a community organizer for the Michigan Clean Boats, Clean Waters program! ML&SA is also pleased to announce the release of a new lakefront property owner's guide to controlling and managing invasive aquatic plants. Created by ML&SA Research and Development Coordinator Alisha Davidson, Ph.D., the guide was designed to help Michigan Lake and Stream Associations (ML&SA) members with important decisions regarding the control and management of invasive aquatic plants. The guide provides a summary of current knowledge and options for management, as well as a list of Michigan businesses that can provide guidance and/or perform management services. The new guide can be found on the ML&SA website: <http://www.mymlsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Invasive-Plant-Control-and-Management-Guide.pdf>.

For 54 consecutive years, ML&SA has held an annual conference open to members and the general public that is perennially dedicated to learning more about our responsibility as stakeholders in protecting and preserving our vast treasure of inland waters. On Friday and Saturday, May 1st and 2nd, 2015 over two hundred seventy folks made the trek to Boyne Mountain Resort to learn more about “Managing Aquatic Invasive Species in Inland Lakes” – the conference was highlighted by outstanding presentations ranging in topic from community involvement and effective collaboration to various science and technology based strategies for the control and management of aquatic invasive species. The entire ML&SA family would like to provide a hearty “thank you” to all who generously contributed to the success of our 54th Annual Conference! Please “save the dates” of April 28 – 30, 2016 and plan on attending the Michigan Inland Lakes Convention to be held at Boyne Mountain Resort. More information regarding next year's Lakes Convention will become available later this year, so stay “tuned” to www.mymlsa.org.

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May 2015

**Take a copy of the MWA membership form
on page #4 and share with your friends and
neighbors.**

JOIN MWA TODAY !

**YOUR SUPPORT ALLOWS THE
ACCOMPLISHMENTS YOU READ ABOUT,
PLUS THE NECESSARY EFFORTS AND
COMMUNICATION ACROSS OUR STATE**

MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE

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**MICHIGAN WATERFRONT
ALLIANCE,
ONLY THROUGH
YOUR ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT,
IS YOUR LAKE PROTECTED.
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Make a difference!
It's an investment that pays off!**

Lobbyists are NOT FREE, but individual membership in MWA is VERY CHEAP; it costs just \$50 a year, your lake Association is only \$100. Think of it as an insurance policy against the erosion of the value of your riparian rights of your valuable property.

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