



# MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

## August 2015

[www.mwai.org](http://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 Michigan Waterfront Alliance Lake Association and Individual Members,

An item of new business was presented at our June 11th Board of Directors meeting because of the following communication from Michigan Lake and Stream Associations Director Doctor John W. Wilks. Following is his concern:

John Wilks: “Here is another issue worthy of consideration now or in the future: boats used for wakeboarding (tethered wake riding) and wakesurfing (wake riding without a tether). From my perspective, these boats are destroying shorelines, wildlife habitat, and creating a safety issue for fisherpersons, and those in kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards. Wake enhancing devices have already been banned on lakes in Oregon and Iowa. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is planning similar bans on Idaho’s Lake Lowell and in the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. We may wish to be proactive about these wake enhancing boats in Michigan. The boating lobby mounted a successful full-court press in Idaho with the highest ranking politicians and the Governor concluding that wakesurfing is a “fun, healthy activity.” A study is underway in Florida to gather data on wakes from wake boats for comparison with other boating activities and wind; the study is funded by the Water Sports Industry Association - so you can already imagine the conclusions.”

After discussing the large wave damage especially to smaller lake shorelines, fish beds, docks and moored watercraft your MWA board took the following actions:

1. Motion by D. Brown, second by J. Hood MWA take a proactive stance on the wake enhancing boats and direct our lobbyist to seek out a necessary solution. Motion carried unanimously
2. Asked MWA lobbyist M. Kurta to talk to the DNR, DEQ and other groups about the damage to property, shoreline, fisheries (fish beds) and more caused by these boats in hope of getting them on board.
3. Asked me to approach the Higgins Lake Property Owners Association to support new rules regarding large wakes and direct their lobbyist PA Associates to work with MWA Lobbyist Karoub Associates to find a solution to the issue. (MWA board member Bill Carey and I attended the July Higgins Lake Property Owners Association Board meeting and presented the concern. The HLPOA Board then resolved to support new rules regarding large wakes and to direct their lobbyist PA Associates to work with MWA Lobbyist Karoub Associates regarding the issue).
4. MWA added the following to their 2015 Legislative Agenda: We support legislation requiring a Wake Enhancing vessels to operate at a distance far enough from a shoreline so that the waves created will not harm shorelines, wildlife habitat, and will not create a safety issue for fisherpersons, and those in kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards and other watercraft.

It was on August 13 that I saw for the first time a surfer surfing on a a very large wave generated by a water ballasted power boat on Higgins Lake. The surfer was not holding a tow rope. It looked like a lot of fun and I am sure if done far enough away from shore and other watercraft, the risk for shore line wave damage would be much less as would risk of harmfully impacting other watercraft.

I would like to thank John Wilks for alerting the MWA to this activity. We will keep you posted.

Sincerely,

Bob Frye, President, MWA

[skibones@aol.com](mailto:skibones@aol.com)



## **MWA Legislative Update – August 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](http://www.mcnalms.org)**

## **Michigan Lake and Stream Associations**

News and Views for Summer of 2015

By Scott Brown, ML&SA Executive Director

We're proud to be continuing a long tradition established by the founders of our organization in the early 1960's – that is, helping to educate and empower our members and other lake and stream stakeholders so that they may effectively work to protect Michigan's profound legacy of high quality inland lakes and streams. Let's face it folks, our state and federal governments are not coming to the rescue of our increasingly stressed lakes and streams. If in fifty years Michigan still enjoys high quality freshwater resources, it will have occurred because citizens like you worked pro-actively within your local communities.

It is in that spirit that ML&SA co-sponsored several local government officials focused inland lake protection workshops this summer. Working with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the Van Buren Conservation District, workshops designed to give local government officials the tools they need to pass local lake, stream and wetland protection ordinances were held in Lenawee, Oakland, Van Buren and Emmet counties. Our mission of encouraging and supporting local governments willing to step-up and pass reasonable and sustainable local ordinances designed to protect the lakes and streams in their jurisdictions has a long way to go to achieve success. The fact is, the vast majority of townships in Michigan have done little or nothing to protect their freshwater gems – too many local government officials are still guided by the incorrect notion that they possess no authority to pass such ordinances. One of the primary missions of ML&SA is to help enlighten local government officials regarding their potential role in becoming a pro-active force for water resources protection. This is not about partisan politics folks, this is about electing local government officials, regardless of party affiliation, who are willing to work with their local lake associations and other important stakeholders in protecting freshwater resources that contribute tens of millions of dollars in direct and in-direct economic activity and support to local economies. Have you made note of the number of businesses in your community that make their living because of a lake, river or stream??? Do your local government officials recognize the value of having clean, high quality lakes and streams? If you have not already done so, start a conversation with your local government officials about the importance of protecting community water resources, if they refuse to engage in that conversation, you have the option of replacing them at the next election!



**Membership Application**

(Dues for 2015 are due January 2015)

**The annual dues for individual membership In Michigan Waterfront Alliance are \$50. Lake Association Membership is \$100. Commercial, Individual & Legal Donations Are Appreciated. Please Print:**

\_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Last Name First Name Day Phone Evening Phone

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address City State Zip Code Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
 County Township Lake or Stream Association if established

Make Checks payable to: **Michigan Waterfront Alliance**  
 Mail to: **MWA, P.O. Box 369**  
**Fenton, MI 48430**

Individual (\$50)	_____
Lake Assoc. (\$100)	_____
Corp. (\$200)	_____
Legal Assist. Fund	_____
<b>Total Enclosed</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Aug 15

**SUMMARY MWA MEETING(S)**



**MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE, INC. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**June 11, 2015 –10:00 am – Karoub, Lansing**

Minutes (unapproved)

1. Meeting called to order at 10:05 am. Present were Frye, R. Brown, S. Brown, R. Carey, Highfield, Hood & Beckwith. Excused was W. Carey. Also present was M. Kurta of Karoub Association.
2. Motion by R. Carey, second R. Brown to accept Treasurer’s report as presented
3. Minutes of Annual Membership of June 9, 2014 were approved.
4. B. Frye noted the association with Karoub is progressing very well.
5. R. Frye updated the swimmers Itch Partnership and suggested for further details contact Ken Dennings.
6. DNR Good Neighbor policy was reviewed.

7. R. Carey reviewed the setback case in Traverse City area.
8. MWA Board of Directors Election were reported by R. Brown. Frye, R. Carey Beckwith and Wm Carey had been re-elected to the Board.
9. R. Brown reported on the MWA membership status.
10. S. Brown reported that ML&SA had a good conference and they are working with DEQ to put on seminars regard zoning around lakes.
11. Meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**June 11, 2015 –2:00 pm – Karoub, Lansing**

Minutes (unapproved)

1. Meeting called to order at 10:05 am. Present were Frye, R. Brown, S. Brown, R. Carey, Highfield, Hood & Beckwith. Excused was W. Carey. Also present was M. Kurta of Karoub Association.
2. Motion by R. Carey, second R. Brown to accept Treasurer’s report as presented
3. Minutes of Board Meeting of June 9, 2014 were approved.

4. Moved & Supported to retain current slate of MWA officers.
5. John Wilks presented an issue for consideration-new boats built for wake riding or wakesurfing and the impact on shorelines and habitat. Studies are underway in other states.
6. Motion to be proactive regarding this issue by asking our lobbyist to seek possible solutions.
7. Next Board meeting Sept. 23, 2015
8. Meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm

## 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.

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

### Subscribe to The Michigan Riparian Just \$14 per year!

Please fill out the form, and mail it with your \$14 check made payable to:

"The Michigan Riparian" ....

Mail to: The Michigan Riparian  
300 N. State St.  
Stanton, MI 48888

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address/PO Box \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Aug 2015

### 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.  
Your Support Does  
Make a difference!**

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