



MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

May 2016

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.

As we go into 2016 with the hope of a warm summer, I think now is a good time to review where the Michigan Waterfront Alliance has come from and where it is going. The MWA was founded in the 1990’s to provide a voice, on behalf of Michigan Riparians, to the State of Michigan’s legislative and judicial processes. We share many of the same goals of the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association and because we are not a 501C3 tax deductible corporation (as is ML&SA) we can and do engage in lobbying.

We have had great successes both legislatively and judicially since our founding. Had the MWA not become involved at the Appellate and Supreme Court level, to overturn an Appellate court’s decision regarding Riparian rights of property owners who have a public road running between their shore and their dwelling, I am sure that thousands of Waterfront owners would not have Riparian rights today. The MWA, through hearing testimony, member to legislator communication and effective lobbying, defeated legislation meant to legalize public road end marinas. Through the same process, the MWA cosponsored and helped pass legislation that prohibits public road end marinas.

As we go forward we face the momentous challenge of combating the deterioration of Michigan’s Lakes and Streams because of invasive species. Whether it’s Eurasian Milfoil so thick that ducks can walk on top of it, or a host of new invasives threatening Michigan’s inland waters in an even worse way, we certainly have our work cut out for us.

We were fortunate to have Dr Ed Mahoney join us at our board meeting this past April 5th. Ed is an experienced researcher and project manager in the areas of economic impact assessment, marketing and customer service research, survey design, web-based information collection and analysis systems and implementation, and statistical analysis. His background includes heading up multi-year research projects for many agencies and businesses including: U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Coast Guard, Canadian National Park Service, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, West Marine, Orchard Supply Hardware, National Marine Manufacturers Association, Australia Marina Industries Association and International Council of Marine Industries.

Dr Mahoney agreed to help us achieve the MWA goal to change the direction of the DNR & Michigan Waterways Commission regarding funding the invasive species battle and preventing the spread of invasive species. This is great news and will be the major focus of the MWA as we go forward.

Last fall, when the DNR was asked by the MWA if there were any new regulations regarding wake enhanced boats, the reply was no and that they had not received any complaints. Perhaps boaters or riparians, who have suffered damage or experienced unsafe navigation because of these large waves, did not know who to call. Here is the number 800 292 7800. It is the DNR reporting number and you should reach a live person 24/7.

On another note, we extend our sympathy to the family of past MWA board member Bill Sharp who passed away on April 6. Bill contributed a great deal of his time, talent and treasure to the protection of Michigan's Inland lakes. Bill was never afraid to do the right thing. We will miss him greatly.

Sincerely,

Bob Frye, President, MWA



MWA Legislative Update – May 2016

The Michigan Legislature is currently finalizing work on next year's state budget, and should complete that work by June 1. The other remaining priority for Legislators to resolve before they recess for the summer in mid-June is how (or whether) to enact reforms and provide financial assistance to Detroit Public Schools (DPS) in order to avoid a potential DPS bankruptcy before the beginning of the next school year this fall. While the state budget and DPS reforms currently garner the lions' share of attention in Lansing, a few items of interest to MWA have recently appeared on our radar screen.

Senator Tom Casperson (R-Escanaba) held a hearing last week on Senate Bills 39 and 40, commonly referred to as "land cap" legislation, which seek to limit the ability of the DNR to acquire additional land in Northern Michigan without legislative approval of a statewide land management plan. Senator Casperson has been working on this legislation for a number of years given widespread concern in Northern Michigan, particularly among local units of government, over the amount of land in state ownership currently off local tax rolls and the inability of the state even to make reduced Payments in Lieu of Taxes or "PILT" payments on lands already in state ownership. SB 39 and 40 make a number of modifications and reforms to state land management which enjoy broad support in Northern Michigan, particularly in Upper Peninsula communities, but have generated opposition from some environmental and conservation groups as well.

Senator Casperson is also working on legislation to enact reforms to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) in order to provide more flexibility and modernize the MNRTF distribution formula to meet current natural resource needs. The legislation, Senate Bill 16 and Senate Joint Resolution C, would shift the allocation formula away from acquisition and expand the allowable use of trust fund dollars available for development. One particular change MWA supports in the legislation is allowing MNRTF dollars to be utilized for aquatic invasive species management and eradication.

While Senate Bill 16 could be signed into law by Governor Snyder with passage by the Legislature, an accompanying amendment to the Michigan Constitution is necessary as well to amend allocation and distribution of MNRTF dollars. Amendments to the Michigan Constitution, such as SJR C, need to be approved with both a 2/3 supermajority in each chamber and approval by the voting public at the next General Election.

MWA is very encouraged by Senator Casperson's work on both issues, and we will keep members updated should any action happen on any of these proposals before the Legislature adjourns in mid-June or over the summer. When the Legislature breaks in mid-June, they will return for three weeks in September and then for 3-4 additional weeks of "lame duck" session after the November Election.

Matt Kurta

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(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 2016

By Scott Brown, ML&SA Executive Director

We are very pleased to report that the 2016 Michigan Inland Lakes Convention was a big success! Held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 28th – 30th at the Boyne Mountain Resort in Boyne Falls, this year's convention attracted 350 people who took part in a great opportunity to learn more about Michigan's awesome treasure of over 11,000 inland lakes. Inland lake fisheries, riparian rights and water law, water quality trends, wild rice, buying and selling waterfront property, and more controversial issues like aquatic invasive species management funding and many other relevant topics of special interest to folks living on inland lakes were explored at this year's convention. Please save the dates for next year's conference that will be held on Friday and Saturday, April 28th and 29th, at beautiful Crystal Mountain Resort. Your participation in our conferences and events is not only a good way to keep up with the latest news and information regarding our inland lakes but it is also a great way to support Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, and our collaborative partners. The humble profit we make from our conference each year helps us keep the lights on and the telephone ringing. As you might imagine, although Michigan Lake and Stream Associations is able to keep the doors open and the lights on, we are far from drowning in money with which to contribute to special projects and riparian law amicus briefs which help protect your riparian rights. Every little bit you do, including a very affordable subscription to The Michigan Riparian magazine, helps our cause! We have noticed that far too many people do anything they can, for example, to gain access to attorney Cliff Bloom's riparian rights articles without paying a nickel to help support Michigan Lake and Stream Associations. The last time I checked, most folks who own lakefront property in Michigan are not exactly paupers, and in fact are just too damn cheap to pay the "vast" sum of 14 bucks a year for our magazine! Folks, our quarterly magazine dedicated to news and information about our inland lakes and streams is just 27 cents a week! To those who don't subscribe to The Michigan Riparian and/or that don't have a membership in ML&SA - you should be aware that the day of the "free lunch" in terms of gaining free access to our website(s) (www.mymlsa.org and www.mi-riparian.org) based articles and information may be coming to an end very soon! Is it unreasonable to believe that people who directly benefit from our programs, events, amicus briefs and information regarding riparian rights, should pay just a little bit to help support our cause? Please tell me if I am wrong on this issue. You should know also that Michigan Lake and

Stream Associations and the Michigan Waterfront Alliance are working together bring justice to the waterfront by tackling head on the issue of aquatic invasive species management funding on Michigan inland lakes, for far too long, our lake associations have been asked to pay the entire \$25,000,000 bill for exotic species that have been introduced to our lakes by folks using public boating access sites. We believe that the recreational boating community whose sport is enabled by these sites should be paying their fair share to cover the cost of remediating the problems that they have contributed to. Stayed tuned to this newsletter, our website, and The Michigan Riparian magazine for more information about this important issue in the next few months. On that note, everyone at ML&SA wishes you a fun, relaxing, enjoyable, and safe summer on Michigan's wonderful inland lakes and streams!

Membership Application

(Dues for 2016 are due January 2016)



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	_____
Total Enclosed	\$ _____

May 16

SUMMARY MWA MEETING(S)



**MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE, INC.
BOARD MEETING**

**April 5, 2016 –10:00 am – Karoub,
Lansing**

Minutes (unapproved)

1. Meeting called to order at 10:05 am. Present were Frye, S. Brown, R. Carey, Highfield, N. Beckwith. Excused were R. Brown. W. Carey gave his proxy to R. Frye. Also present were M. Kurta of Karoub Association, and Ed Mahoney.
2. It was noted with regret that J. Hood & Bill Sharp had resigned from the MWA Board.
3. Minutes of September 23rd 2015 were approved.
4. Treasurer's Report was presented for review and accepted.
5. Ed Mahoney discussed several subjects such as a questionnaire as to how the DNR is handling boater registration monies, maintaining data on boats launched and related topics. Resulting from this discussion, MWA formed a Reverse Condemnation Committee and a Facebook Committee. It was noted that the Michigan Waterways Commission needs have a seat to represent Michigan Inland Lakes.
6. M. Kurta reported that many legislative issues are inactive due to campaign

- activity. It was noted that swimmers
 itch funding was approved at the
 Senate Subcommittee for \$250,000.
7. S. Brown reported on the Michigan
 Inland Lakes Conference and ML&SA
 was not having their annual meeting at
 the conference.
 8. The MWA ballot for the Board
 member election was reviewed and
 noted that vacancies would exist due to
 recent resignations.
 9. The dates for MWA Annual meeting
 and Annual Board meeting were
 established as starting on May 26, 2016
 at 10:00 am at the office of Karoub.
 10. Meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm

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May 2016

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

**MICHIGAN WATERFRONT
 ALLIANCE,
ONLY THROUGH
 YOUR ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT,
 IS YOUR LAKE PROTECTED.
 Your Support Does
 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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