



MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2020

<https://michiganwaterfrontalliance.com/>

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 MWA Lake Association Members, Individual Members and Friends,

MWA President Report of DNR / MWA AIS Task Force Meeting

Meeting held on October 31, 2019

Attending: Joanne Foreman (Michigan Department of Natural Resources Invasive Species Communication Coordinator) Elaine Isley (Michigan Waterways Commission Board member), Dennis Nickels (Michigan Waterways Commission Chairman), Jackie Blodgett (Assistant Chief, Parks and Recreation) Ron Olson (Chief, Parks and Recreation), Kevin Walters (biologist with EGLE's aquatic invasive species program and overseer of Annual Invasive Species Landing Blitz), Anna Sylvester (Northern Field Operations Chief, Michigan DNR), Sarah LeSage (Aquatic Biologist and Aquatic Species Program Coordinator), Lt. Nick Torsky, (DNR Law Enforcement), Vicki McGhee (Chief, Planning & Infrastructure for the DNR), Christina Baugher (Fisheries Biologist, MDNR), Melissa DeSimone (MLSA Executive Director), Lon Nordeen (MLSA & MWA Board member), Scott Brown (MWA Board Member), Bob Frye (MWA President)

Review of DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Boater Action Plan for 2019 – *Annual Accomplishments*

- Status of action items:
- Boater registration – Kevin Walters reported that in addition to the 330,000 AIS rack cards that were included with 2019 boat registration letters an additional 65,000 were distributed through DNR Parks outreach programs.
- Boating access signage – Anna Sylvester reported that new AIS signage has been ordered for DNR Access sites that need them and that stickers have been ordered to place on existing AIS signs to update them to reflect the new Michigan AIS Laws.
- AIS Access Clean Drain and Dry ramp markings – Anna Sylvester reported that Access Ramp marking stencils (9 feet wide by 12 feet high) have been produced and that she will create a list of locations and contacts to enable Lake Associations to borrow the stencils and that she will send the information to the MWA and MLSA.
- Media messages – JoAnne Foreman reported sending 10 press releases to 55,000 contacts per release and active involvement with social media.
- Law enforcement – Nick Torsky reported that as of Oct 15, 2019 with 2/3 of the regions reporting DNR Officers had logged 3000 hours enforcing the new Michigan AIS Laws. They made 2200 contacts, issued 107 warnings and issued 1 citation. He said as more boaters become aware the warnings will be less and the citations will be more.
- * Boat cleaning stations – Kevin Walters and Anna Sylvester reviewed funding and use of portable and stationary boat cleaning stations and that with to 2 EGLE portable boat washing units they washed over 500 boats in 2019.
- * Landing blitz – Kevin Walters reported that in conjunction with Michigan’s Aquatic invasive Species Awareness Week, the 6th annual AIS Landing Blitz, an outreach event for boaters, was held June 30 - July 7, 2019 at boat landings around the state. Over 200 local volunteers worked to educate boaters in how to prevent the spread of these harmful species and comply with current aquatic invasive species-related laws.

- Sampling program – Christina Baugher reported that a 2019 study of 157 launch sites (just the water adjacent to the ramp) that ½ the sites had one or more invasive species present and that Eurasian Milfoil and Starry Stonewort were the 2 most prevalent.

FY 2020 DNR AIS initiatives

- Boater registration AIS cards will continue to be inserted in mailings as will distribution of additional cards through Parks and Recreation.
- Media messages – Continued press releases and appearance of DNR AIS officials at AIS awareness functions including the MLSA Annual Conference May 1 & 2.
- Landing blitz – Continue expansion of AIS Landing Blitz to partner with all states and provinces in the Great Lakes District and continue Michigan Governor proclamation of AIS Awareness week. Anna Sylvester asked the MWA and MLSA to encourage their members to set a good example by using available boat washes when launching their boats. Scott Brown volunteered to follow up.
- AIS Boating Initiative – Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant funds are available from October 1, 2019 through September 2021 for DNR Law Enforcement Division to conduct statewide dedicated enforcement patrols at state owned boating access sites.
- EGLE/MSUE boater outreach – Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant funds are available from October 2020 through September 2021 for a full time paid Michigan State University Extension AIS Prevention Educator. The primary duties of this new position are to coordinate and promote Clean Boats, Clean Waters statewide, including a new mini-grants program (\$1-3k each) for local implementation (materials, promotion, volunteer gear and recognition) and coordinate and promote the Michigan Boat Wash program, including oversight of seasonal crews, event planning, and data management.
- Sampling program – The study of AIS infected launch sites will continue and may be expanded to include more lakes for 2020

MLSA/MWA

Discussion took place of an “AIS recreation passport” line item for boater registration as a volunteer donation to send in with boater registration.

Scott Brown noted the veto of funding for the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP).

Sarah LeSage acknowledged that studies that she has seen, show that a majority of the boating public would be willing to donate funds to help fight the spread and control of invasive species.

Chief Olson suggested that the “AIS recreation passport” line item for boater registration as a volunteer donation plan be reviewed and more detail be presented at the next Task Force meeting

Bob Frye suggested that the Task Force review the possibility of proposing a policy change of the Michigan Waterways Commission and the DNR that ensures complete protection of all access sites under the influence of the DNR and Michigan Waterways Commission from the introduction and spreading of Aquatic Invasive species.

Lon Nordeen reported that so far he has received back over 105 Aquatic Invasive Species Control cost surveys.

Sarah LeSage reported that as far as the willingness of boaters to change their behavior to combat AIS the results from phase 1 from MN’s AIS behavioral psychology study have been published: <https://www.glc.org/wp-content/uploads/GLP-May-2019-WOLBERS-MN-DNR-CBSM-Wolbers.pdf>

The Task Force agreed to meet again in late March or Early April of 2020.

Thank you all MWA Individual and Lake Association Members for your support. Without you this progress may never have happened!

Sincerely,

Bob Frye, MWA President

Report from the Michigan Environmental Council

One of the reasons that the MWA belongs to organizations such as the MEC is to help lay a foundation of background information regarding legislative issues that the MWA may need support on in proposed legislation. Membership also helps your MWA keep up to date on issues affecting Michigan's Lakes and Streams. The following is such an example:

"In 2018: MEC and our allies convinced the House (107-0) and Senate (37-0) to put a Constitutional amendment [on the 2020 ballot](#) to grow and diversify the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Our coalition will lead an energetic campaign to win Michigan voters' approval next year -- perhaps a rare, enjoyable bright spot in this contentious election year."

It the hope of many waterfront property owners that funds from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund would be targeted toward the fight against Aquatic Invasive Species in our State. Passage of the Amendment would be a big help to begin to make that happen.

The Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership

Promoting collaboration to advance stewardship of Michigan's inland lakes.

A Summary of 2019 Issues and Activities

The purpose of the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership (Partnership) is to engage state and local agencies, including the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the Department of the Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), outreach institutions, including Michigan State University Extension, non-governmental organizations such as the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society, and Michigan Waterfront Alliance (NGOs), lake management businesses and industries, and concerned citizens in a collaborative effort to help ensure the quality, sustainability, and ecological diversity of lakes, while also considering society's needs. The Partnership works to promote communication and cooperation between partners, communities, and citizens interested in the management of Michigan's inland lakes, educating leaders, and strengthening stewardship efforts.

The primary focus of the Partnership within the 2019 calendar year included issues related to the status of efforts to restore funding to the Michigan Clean Water Corps Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program and the Volunteer Stream Water Quality Monitoring Grant Program; the affects of climate change on inland lake fisheries in Michigan; the status and outcome of on-going efforts conducted by the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership to protect Michigan's inland lakes through conservation and restoration of natural shorelines; the status and outcome of statewide efforts of the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy to prevent or minimize the spread and negative influences of aquatic invasive species; and the status of various bills introduced in the Michigan legislature in 2019, that if passed into law, may have the potential to negate the ability of local governments in Michigan to pass water and natural resource protection related zoning ordinances.

The Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership is also planning to hold a two-day inland lake management dedicated conference in October of 2020. As of this writing, the specific dates and location of the conference are pending the outcome of a statewide venue search.

To learn more about the activities of the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership, please visit

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/michiganlakes/>.

Save the Date!

**Friday, March 13, 2020
9:30 AM - 3:30 PM**

**Michigan Waterfront Alliance presents a
one-day conference dedicated to**

**"Assessing the Value of the Contributions
of Inland Lakes to Michigan's Economy"**

to be held at

**Karoub Associates
121 W. Allegan Street
Lansing, Michigan**

**Registration for our one-day conference will
begin in the second week January. Stay tuned
to near future editions of our e-newsletter for
more information regarding the conference.**

Michigan is graced with an aesthetically pleasing landscape that hosts over 11,000 inland lakes that provide our citizens and millions of visitors to our state with an extraordinary array of recreational and economic opportunities. In addition to providing vast opportunities for premium lakefront living lifestyles, our inland lakes also serve as the basis for the creation and sustenance of thousands of small businesses and hundreds of thousands of jobs through Michigan's highly successful tourism, resort, and recreational boating, fishing and hunting industries. Various informal, and likely outdated estimates of the value of the contribution of inland lakes to Michigan's economy range from five to thirty billion dollars. Hindered by the fact that very few comprehensive studies have focused specifically on the value of the various contributions of our inland lakes to Michigan's economy, our state legislators, and natural resource and environmental regulatory agencies are often hindered in their ability to effectively manage our vast wealth of inland lakes due to lack of valid data.

Please join us on **Friday, March 13, 2020** from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM at **Karoub Associates** in Lansing as our line-up of guest speakers explores the extraordinary contributions of Michigan's inland lakes to our economy. A very reasonable one day conference fee of \$25.00 will include lunch. Due to venue restrictions, registration will be limited to 65 people.

Visit the Michigan Waterfront Alliance website at <https://michiganwaterfrontalliance.com/> for more information and to register for the conference.



MWA Legislative Update – January 2020

Governor Whitmer and the Michigan Legislature finished out 2019 with a flurry of bipartisan activity in December, in sharp contrast to ongoing budget battles that encompassed the months prior. After the Governor issued \$957 million of line-item vetoes and utilized State Administrative Board (SAB) transfer authority to redirect another \$625 million within various state Departments on September 30/October 1, both sides finally came together in December to restore some of the more pressing and/or politically unpopular cuts. More work remains to be done and we likely will see negotiations over items to be included in additional supplemental appropriations bills in the near future.

One casualty of the budget standoff in 2019 was funding for the Cooperative Lakes Management Program (CLMP). MWA successfully lobbied once again for inclusion of minimal funding for CLMP in the budget sent to the Governor by the Legislature, but as that budget was not a result of mutual negotiations between both sides, CLMP funding was unfortunately one of the 43 line-item vetoes issued by the Governor. We will continue to press our case for restoration of CLMP in any upcoming supplemental appropriations bills.

We also continue to make great ongoing progress with respect to the AIS workgroup MWA established with DNR in 2018. As Bob has noted, we meet regularly with DNR staff to ensure communication between state officials and lakefront property owners over how we can work together to combat aquatic invasive species and address other issues related to recreation and property rights on Michigan inland lakes.

2019 also marked milestone year with respect to establishment of an Inland Lake Aquatic Invasive Plant Species Control and Eradication Program in the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, as a result of Public Act 671 of 2018, sponsored by former State Senator David Robertson (R-Grand Blanc). PA 671 represents the culmination of years of efforts by riparians to establish a state program and fund specifically dedicated to assisting inland lake property owners with control and eradication of AIS. Public Act 618 of 2018 provided an initial appropriation of \$1 million towards these efforts, and MWA will be working to secure additional funding in the future, given that appropriation was only one-time funding and a permanent funding source needs to be identified. While the program is not perfect and there have been bumps in the road as it was getting off the ground, we now have a fund and program in place to build upon going forward in cooperation with the DEQ.

Finally, MWA members will see a proposal on the November ballot in 2020 to expand allowable expenditures of Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund dollars on public recreation and state park projects.

We anticipate legislative action to be fast and furious in 2020, as legislators in the House will be eager to hit the campaign trail next summer and the Legislature will also be required to submit a budget to the Governor by July 1, due to Public Act 160 of 2019 sponsored by Rep. Greg VanWoerkom (R-Norton Shores). Thank you to all readers of this article for your efforts to reach out to your legislators with

respect to CLMP and other issues of importance to lakefront property owners – your outreach makes a difference. Best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2020.

Matt Kurta
www.karoub.com | mkurta@karoub.com

YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS DUE NOW!



Membership Application
 (Dues for 2020 are due January 2020)

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

List your top concern and return to MWA _____

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 \$	_____

Jan 20

Presidents report regarding MWA Bylaws Change,

At December 12, 2019 the MWA Board of Directors meeting discussion of a letter sent by the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association (“MLSA”) regarding the process of selecting candidates for election to the MWA board ensued. Discussion started with there being an explanation of the letter from Michigan Lakes and Streams Association president Mike Gallagher, the thrust of which was the process of selecting candidates for the MWA Board and the challenge of differentiating the emails and other communications of both organizations the roles of MLSA and MWA.

MWA vice President Dick Brown gave an explanation of the nomination process and a history of the start of MWA (when he was MLSA president) that emphasized that the intention and purpose of the 2 organizations having shared board members was not for MLSA to exercise control over the activities of MWA (as stated in the letter) but so that both organizations would share a philosophy of protecting Michigan’s Lakes and Streams.

Scott Brown explained that the emails he creates and that President Frye reviews before being sent are focused on educating members on legislative and potential legislative issues, Riparian Legal issues and regarding the activities of other organizations that MWA is a member of, including the Michigan Environmental Council, Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society and the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership. Ed Highfield expressed his displeasure with the mean tone of the letter. It was also discussed by several members that, contrary to what was stated in the MLSA letter, the existing

Bylaws had been followed in previous elections and that all current members of the MWA Board had been properly elected in accordance with the Bylaws.

A motion was then made and passed to amend the MWA bylaws Article III, Section 1 of the MWA Bylaws for the third sentence to read as follows:

The business, property and affairs of the corporation shall be managed by its Board of Directors. The number of Directors of the corporation shall be not less than seven (7) or more than nine (9) persons. Members of the Board of Directors may be directors or officers of ML&SA. The motion was discussed.

The question was called, and the motion passed.

The MWA looks forward to continuing to collaborate with MLSA in all ways to protect and preserve Michigan's Lakes and Streams.

*To view the MLSA letter, go to the michiganwaterfrontalliance.com web site and look under "News"

***Don't forget to save the date for the MLSA Annual Conference on May 1 &2 at Crystal Mountain.**

Michigan Swimmers Itch Partnership- update 12-11-19

By C. Cornell

The MISIP has concluded their season and at their year-end conference in Grayling on November 10th had scientific reports from three contractors who had received funding for Swimmer's Itch studies during 2019. One study focused on Snail distribution and compared this year's information with earlier information. One report detailed the impact qPCR sampling is having on identification of parasitic evidence in lake water samples and one study dealt with habits of ducks after relocation. In addition, a DNR representative (Barb Avers) answered many questions about permitting and general DNR perspectives on MISIP concerns.

MISIP spent approximately \$100,000 on research projects this past season.

Recent questions about Swimmer's Itch in lakes where merganser ducks were not in evidence allows some to believe that other avian parasitic strains might be apparent in these situations, although the evidence still seems to show that Common Mergansers are still the primary source of the problem.

At year end there were purchases made of equipment to further study avian habits (GPS transmitters) and aid in future capture (not guns) and a further study to examine genetic markers that will give us new knowledge of how the parasites live within the ducks. This may give us new methods to attack the problem in the future.

The potential of receiving a renewed appropriation from the state for MISIP to study SI has been held up in the state budget discussions for months. These discussions have recently (Tuesday) been resolved but the final decision within the HHS department as regards MISIP may not be forthcoming until February as there are bigger issues that need to be resolved before the MISIP appropriation will be determined. MISIP officers and Steering Committee are continuing to plan future activities in instances both where state funding is renewed or may not be.

A study tracking SI reporting that has been done for five years at Crystal Lake has shown a dramatic reduction of cases reported each year. Crystal Lake has been using duck relocation during that time period (Started in 2015) and is very happy with the results Although we may never totally eradicate the problem it has been very successfully reduced in some lake situations, including Higgins Lake.

Here is a summary of their findings. The year, the number of swimmers in the lake for the season (not sure how that is determined but the method was consistent) and the number of Swimmer's Itch cases reported.

Year / Swimmers / SI reports	Year/Swimmers/SI reports	Year/Swimmers/SI reports
2015 / 6894 / 367	2017 / 4468 / 151	2018 / 5261 / 90
2016 / 5084 / 245		2019 / 6115 / 34

Assessing relocation sites will be important as we go forward and evaluation of current practices is ongoing.



SUMMARY MWA MEETING(S)

MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE, INC. BOARD MEETING

**December 12, 2019 –9:05 am –
Karoub, Lansing**
Minutes (unapproved)

1. Meeting called to order. Present were R. Brown, S. Brown, D. Carey, Wm Carey, Frye, Highfield, Nordeen. Via phone-Beckwith & Cornell. M. Taylor & M. Gallagher were guests.
2. Discussion of MLSA letter to MWA dated 12/5/19. Resulted in a motion to amend MWA bylaws to state, in part that the business and affairs of the corporation shall be managed by its Board of Directors consisting of 7 to 9 persons and may be Directors or Officers of ML&SA. Board votes: Aye-R. Brown, S. Brown, Beckwith, Frye, Highfield, Nay- Nordeen & Gallagher. Wm & Dane Carey with Cornell abstained.
3. Without further amendments the board authorized the President & Secretary of MWA to sign the necessary documents as amended.
4. Minutes of 9/18/19 were approved.
5. Treasurer's Report was presented for review and accepted.
6. R. Frye updated the group regarding conversations with Ron Olson (DNR) about the Task Force and other related items. Bob believes that getting cooperation from Waterways is very good. It was noted that follow up on MWA Facebook sight will be pursued.
7. M. Taylor reported that they are working on a dedicated funding source for AIS. MICorp funding is not looking good. Also noted was that Rental

Legislation was an issue that was "up & coming.

8. Membership status was reviewed by Dick Brown. Brown also discussed the upcoming annual mailing & articles to be included with membership data.
9. S. Brown reviewed the upcoming Inland Lakes convention on March 13 at Karoub in Lansing
10. L. Nordeen reported on May 1&2,2020 MLSA conference at Crystal Mountain. & MWA participation.
11. C. Cornell reported the progress of the MI Swimmer Itch Partnership.
12. Future meeting will be set in mid -April 2020 at 10:00 am at Karoub Associates.
13. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm

Fill out the enclosed Green

Envelope &

Take a copy of the MWA

membership form on page # 6 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.

MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE

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