



MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE

NEWSLETTER

June 2020

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.

President’s Corner

By Bob Frye

Dear MWA Paid Members and Members who have yet to pay this year’s dues,

I hope everyone is adapting in good fashion to the new protocols required by the State of Michigan. Here at Higgins Lake we have noticed an influx of folks coming to this more rural environment from generally more heavily populated urban environments.

To enable the MWA to reach out to more folks who care about Michigan’s lakes and streams the MWA has created a Facebook page. Please search for Michigan Waterfront Alliance on Facebook and “like” our page!

Following are brief summaries of your MWA action items:

1. Update MWA / DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force:

Even though the March 2020 Task Force was cancelled, progress has been made since last summer, including the following:

Boater registration AIS inserts: Updates were made to the State of Michigan’s “boater rack card”, an informational flyer with AIS laws and recommendations for boaters/anglers, in response to the 2019 NREPA Part 413 amendments. The rack cards will be sent to all registered watercraft in Michigan over a three-year period with inserts in mailings coinciding with 3-year registration renewals.

AIS Outreach Materials: Michigan’s Invasive Species Program has developed and produced a variety of AIS outreach materials that are widely distributed to priority audiences and partners. Many of the materials are available free of charge upon request (Kevin Walters, Waltersk3@michigan.gov - [616-250-8637](tel:616-250-8637))

The materials include:

1. [Boater/angler rack card](#)
2. [Michigan Landowner’s Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species Management](#)
3. [Michigan Citizen’s Guide to Invasive Plant Control](#)
4. [Michigan Watch List Aquatic Invasive Plants](#)
5. [Status and Strategies for Established Aquatic Invasive Species In Michigan](#)

EGLE/MSU AIS Boat Wash Comparison Study:

EGLE/MSU Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch (EAPW):

EGLE’s Aquatic Invasive Plant Early Detection & Response Initiative:

Boating Access Site Signage:

2. The MWA led legislation to create a AIS eradication support donation check off box-on boat registration renewals, similar to the Recreation Passport on vehicle registration renewals, is getting good support from both sides of the isle and the Governor.

3. The MWA has asked for and received a review of the **Legal Aspects of the DNR Public Trust Doctrine AIS Control and Remediation Failure form** attorney William Carey of the Grayling Michigan Law firm Carey & Jaskowski PLLC and Dane Carey of the Traverse City Law firm of Kuhn Rogers PLC.

4. Please, as a current member of the MWA, participate in voting for MWA board members to help preserve MWA as a member controlled 501-c4 non-profit corporation!
5. Please note the URL change in MWA web address which is now: MichiganWaterfrontAlliance.com
6. Please sign up for MWA email alerts, if not already receiving them, by emailing Scott Brown: scottb1952@gmail.com
7. Sign up to virtually attend the Michigan Inland Lakes Convention: Conserving Lakes in a Changing Environment, (<https://www.canr.msu.edu/michiganlakes>) September 16, 17, 18 and attend the MWA sponsored seminars:

A. Legal Aspects of the DNR Public Trust Doctrine AIS Control and Remediation Failure

Conference attendees will be apprised of their legal rights under the Michigan Environmental Protection Act and Public Trust Doctrine by attorney William Carey of the Grayling Michigan Law firm Carey & Jaskowski PLLC and Dane Carey of the Traverse City Law firm of Kuhn Rogers PLC.

This session is intended to provide an overview of the legal remedies that can be used to compel a response to the misuse of water rights in the state of Michigan. An example being the Nestle water withdraws in the Reed City area. The discussion will focus on the viability of bringing a legal action against the abusers of water rights to prevent the resulting environmental impairment.

B. Starry Stonewort Management and Control Conference attendees will learn from MWA Board member and Starry Stonewort researcher Scott Brown about the starry stonewort invasion risk in Michigan **and what can be done about it.**

Please know that your support and membership in the MWA is more important than it has ever been.

If you find a dues envelope in this packet it means that **we have not received your 2020 dues.** Please put a check in it and send it today!

Members, See insert regarding election of MWA Board Members

All I ask, currently, is for more Individual and Lake Association members.

Sincerely, Bob Frye, Michigan Waterfront Alliance, President



MWA Legislative Issues Update – June 2020

This will almost assuredly end up as the Legislative session with the fewest number of Public Acts in the history of Michigan as the state and the nation continue to deal with the fallout from COVID-19. Prior to the pandemic, the Governor and the Legislature were not exactly on the best of terms. With state and local budgets stretched to the brink following the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and then the collapse of the Edenville and Sanford dams in Mid-Michigan, legislative leaders have their work cut out for them. It's estimated the budget impact from the pandemic will range anywhere from \$1.5 billion to \$3.5 billion.

With that being said, we're still optimistic that we might be able to identify opportunities for funding the prevention and maintenance of aquatic invasive species in Michigan's inland lakes in the near future. Check back in the fall for more information!

Matt Kurta, Partner
mkurta@karoub.com
(517) 303-3961

Michigan Swimmer's Itch Partnership Update

The Michigan Swimmer's Itch Partnership (MISIP) was formed by Michigan lake associations in 2014 for the purpose of reducing the incidence of Swimmer's Itch on Michigan lakes. (The partnership has since been incorporated but is still known as MISIP.)

The mission of MISIP has been to bring together lake associations and provide leadership in Michigan to address swimmer's itch through effective, comprehensive, science-based control programs, targeted research, education, and the development and testing of preventive measures.

Swimmer's Itch (cercarial dermatitis) is a skin irritation caused by a larval form of certain flatworms from the family Schistosomatidae. Schistosome flatworms are parasites with complex life cycles usually involving certain species of snails and waterfowl. Adult worms live inside waterfowl, and lay eggs which are passed out along with their host feces. When they land in lake water, the eggs hatch and an aquatic larval form of the worm subsequently enters snails. Within a month's time, the flatworms produce thousands of cercariae each day. Upon their release from the snails, the cercariae search for their adult host species (waterfowl) to complete their life cycle. If these cercariae encounter a swimmer, they will mistakenly penetrate human skin. The reaction at the point of entry into the skin is known as Swimmer's Itch, a skin reaction causing itching for a period of days. Many inland lakes in Michigan have recorded incidents of Swimmer's Itch for numerous years.

In 2017, MISIP received its first appropriation from the State Legislature to fund a program to address Swimmer's Itch issues. That appropriation was renewed for 2018 and 2019. During that 3-year period of time, the primary goals have been to help lake associations diminish Swimmer's Itch and to study and implement new methods to offer better solutions in the future. In particular, MISIP has worked closely with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to develop the Common Merganser Control Program and Permit.

The primary purpose of the Common Merganser Control Program and Permit for Swimmer's Itch control is to trap and relocate Common Merganser ducks which have been identified as the primary host for the parasite causing Swimmer's Itch in many lakes.

The trapping and relocation program works like this: Common Merganser broods are captured in early summer and taken to sites where assessment has shown, among other characteristics, that the snails necessary to create the parasitic cycle are not present. Thus, the likelihood of the Swimmer's Itch parasite being transferred to the relocation site is extremely low. The reduction/elimination of the Mergansers as host of the parasite in the original locations breaks the flatworm's life cycle and helps to eliminate the parasite. Although the program cannot entirely eliminate the Swimmer's Itch parasites, it can greatly reduce their numbers.

Two of the most successful lakes to show results with this control method are Crystal Lake and Higgins Lake. Crystal Lake has been using trapping and relocation techniques now for four years and has seen a dramatic reduction in SI cases in that time. An organization at Crystal Lake (Congregational Summer Assembly) has been tracking the progress of swimmer's itch reduction at their beach and reported that the number of swimmer's itch cases in 2015 was 367 and has dropped steadily to 34 cases in 2019, despite an increase in the number of swimmers.

On Higgins Lake, similar success has been seen and the community has taken notice. After years of high levels of SI cases being reported, the trapping and relocation program has resulted in very few cases in each of the last three years.

During the funded three-year program, MISIP has also established Assessment and Control standards for contractors and lake association. It has also provided research opportunities for scientists whose projects have been intended to address issues relative to the control of Swimmer's Itch.

In 2020, the state funding (\$250,000/year) was not renewed. MISIP is now providing educational information to interested lake associations through materials and resources. MISIP is hopeful that state funding may be available again in the future and, if so, will be ready to once again make programs available to further the study and elimination of Swimmer's Itch in Michigan lakes.

For additional information visit the MISIP website: misip.org



2020 Michigan Inland Lakes Convention

Conserving Lakes in a Changing Environment



Join us!

The Michigan Inland Lakes Convention takes place every two years, and serves lake enthusiasts, researchers, managers, and educators. The Convention is hosted by the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership, a collaboration comprised of diverse organizations with a common mission to advance stewardship of Michigan's inland lakes. To learn more about the mission and goals of the Partnership, visit our website at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/michiganlakes/>. We would invite you to join us on-line on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, September 16th, 17th, and 18th, to learn and share the latest innovations and ideas in lake stewardship, and to network with others who share your passion for lakes! This year's theme is **"Conserving Lakes in a Changing Environment"**.

Going Virtual in 2020

The 2020 Michigan Inland Lakes Convention has been moved to a virtual format. The novel coronavirus pandemic has greatly impacted the way we work and live, and we are adapting our Convention to match the fluid environment of our lives during this pandemic. Though we realize there is huge value to the in-person networking that takes place between sessions, we must prioritize the safety and health of our participants, partners, sponsors, volunteers, and staff. The new format also has some major benefits, such as the ability to reach a much larger audience, archived presentations that will be available to the public, and significantly decreased cost. Registration fees will be dramatically reduced relative to a face-to-face event: \$30 all-inclusive for 3 days, \$15 for speakers, and FREE for students! These nominal registration fees will support technical and administrative costs and cover student participation. Although registration is not yet open, please "stay tuned" to the lakes convention website whose address is provided below to find out more about the upcoming convention and details regarding the registration process.

Call for Exhibitors

Non-profit organizations, agencies, and academic/Extension programs are invited to share their work, programs, and resources with lake enthusiasts, managers, educators, and researchers during the virtual Convention. While the call for presentation abstracts is closed, you can still request to be featured on the Convention website. Contact Julia Kirkwood at e-mail: kirkwoodj@michigan.gov of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, Convention Co-Chair, to provide a link or PDF file. **Deadline: July 15.**


Call for Contributors

We invite your business or organization to support the virtual Michigan Inland Lakes Convention. Join the organizations, agencies, and businesses that are helping advance stewardship of our inland lakes through learning, networking, and exchange of ideas. Even in a virtual format, your contribution will help support technical and administrative costs as well as scholarships to support student participation. Review our [Contributor Opportunities](#) section provided on the Convention website for a description of available options. **Deadline: August 15.**

Convention Contacts

You are welcome to direct any questions you have about the 2020 Convention to its Co-Chairs: Julia Kirkwood at e-mail: kirkwoodj@michigan.gov of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, or Jo Latimore at e-mail: latimor1@msu.edu, Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership facilitator, of Michigan State University.

To learn more about the 2020 Michigan Inland Lakes Convention, visit the convention web page by pointing your browser to <https://www.canr.msu.edu/michiganlakes/convention/index>.

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:														
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Make Checks payable to: Michigan Waterfront Alliance Mail to: MWA, P.O. Box 369 Fenton, MI 48430														
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What can you do to support MWA and help protect MI inland Lakes??

- ✓ Join MWA and encourage other lake association members to join
- ✓ Contribute funds to MWA to support our lobbying, outreach and legal activities
- ✓ Connect with your elected officials at the township, village, city, county and state levels
- ✓ Write letters/e-mails/call/meet with your elected officials and voice your concern about the condition of MI inland lakes, spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS), PFAS and other risks which are harming our lakes and potentially impacting recreation and property values

SUMMARY MWA MEETING(S)



MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE, INC. BOARD MEETING (ZOOM)

June 4, 2020 –(ZOOM) Karoub, Lansing
Minutes (unapproved)

1. Meeting called to order at 10:32 pm. Present were Frye, S. Brown, Wm Cary(phone), Beckwith, Cornell. Also present were M. Kurta of Karoub & D. Carey-abs.
2. Minutes of previous meeting were corrected and approved.
3. Treasurer's & Membership Report were reviewed.
4. President's Report-reviewed email from Noreen noting his resignation from MWA BOD. Acceptance letter to be sent.
5. Marketing & Communication strategy discussed & decided to place a cap of \$1200 for 6 months and establish Facebook comm. Inland Lake Convention in September will be virtual on same dates. MWA will support Inland Lakes with a Platinum level (\$500) of sponsorship.
6. M. Kurta reviewed with the Board the current legislative issues.
7. S. Brown reviewed the Starry Stonewart conference as being productive and well attended.
8. S. Brown reported on McNalms-Regarding MWA being receptive to future legislation to control wake boats. Motion carried.
9. Frye & Wm Carey reviewed By-Laws. Many suggested changes that should be reviewed for approval or suggested alterations.
10. The 2020 MWA ballot for the Board members would contain R. Brown, Highfield, and Cornell and S. Brown, as being the slate approved for election by the MWA Board.
11. The date for MWA Annual meeting and Annual Board meeting will be September 9, 2020, 10AM with location to be determined.
12. Meeting adjourned at 1:14 pm

Take a copy of the MWA membership form on page #5 and share with your friends and neighbors.

MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE

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Michigan Waterfront Alliance

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