

Muskellunge Lake Association
Annual Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2012

Call to Order:

Present ✓

President Tom Cerull ✓	VP Mike Newmeister	Treasurer Roger Johnston
Secretary Kathleen Pallardy ✓	Director Gail Anderson	Director Larry Grzesik-resigned
Director Bob Peterson ✓	Director Bill Raboin ✓	Director Dennis Rydzewski
Director Dennis Schumacher ✓		

Also present were members of the following families: Breitenfeldt, Borkowicz, Cerull, Kroggel, Klingaman, Kurhajec, Mattson, Richards, Petersen, Raboin, Rinehart, Pallardy, Rappold, Schumacher and Ryzin

Guest Speakers: There were two guest speakers at this year’s annual meeting, Tim Hoyman from Onterra to speak and answer questions about the Town of Cloverland 21-lake study conducted by Onterra and Jeff Currie to share information about the Great Headwaters Trail program.

Tim Hoyman from Onterra spoke about the Town of Cloverland Lakes 21-lake study conducted by Onterra and addressed questions ML residents submitted prior to the meeting and during the meeting. Tim confirmed that no Eurasian Milfoil was found in any of the lakes in the study with the exception of Boot Lake. Water quality begins with the watershed which is defined as that area of the land surrounding a lake whereby when precipitation falls on that land gravity causes the water to end up in the lake. A lake is a mirror of its watershed. The watershed to lake area ratio for ML is 6:1 which means for every acre on the lake there are 6 acres draining to it. This is a fairly low ratio as compared to other lakes. A larger ratio would enable more pollutants to drain into the lake. Onterra also studied the satellite imagery surrounding the lake and noted that most is forested (75%) and the remaining is wetland (25-%). These types of land cover deliver the least amount of pollutants. So, when we look at ML the watershed is not the problem, it’s very healthy.

Tim shared that there are no weeds in ML, but we do have a healthy aquatic plant life. Phosphorus is the limiting plant nutrient in the lake. The three parameters of chlorophyll, phosphorus and water clarity affect the overall water quality. When we see phosphorus increase, we see chlorophyll increase, when chlorophyll increases water clarity decreases.

Chlorophyll-a Algal Abundance

Water Clarity (Secchi Disk)

Turbidity (Particulate matter, when light hits it scatters and water color (dissolved contents in the water).

Tim reviewed the findings of the Citizens Lake Monitoring Network going back to late 90’s. In 2009, ML had the second highest phosphorus readings, one of the highest chlorophyll levels in Cloverland Township. The ML phosphorus is not due to agricultural/urban areas in the watershed. In 2003 there was a USGS study conducted to determine where the phosphorus was

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coming from. They found that well over half of it came from ground water. Specifically they think it was originating from anoxic wetland soils in the northern part of the lake. This may be due to iron content in the soil. Sediment cores indicate ML has been highly productive for at least the past 100 years. Mother Nature's goal is to fill in lakes either with soil or plants. The majority of phosphorus in ML is naturally occurring. About 16% is generated by septic systems. Reducing this would not significantly improve water quality. Phosphorus has difficulty dissolving in water.

Pre-submitted questions:

Q: What changes can we expect in the lake in drought versus rainy years?

A: Normally in rainy years we will see more phosphorus so the lake is more productive. As the drought progresses the land dries out, lake level will drop. In general fluctuating water levels is a good thing for a lake because it increases the diversity and improves the habitat in the lake although recreation on the lake may be negatively affected.

Q: Why is the fishery changing?

A: Probably due to the fact that it is influenced by "man" which effects the equilibrium in the lake.

Q: Did aquatic vegetation harvesting have a positive or negative effect and why?

A: If the harvesting was done correctly it will not negatively affect the lake and will positively affect the recreation.

Q: What should we do if we find invasive species?

A: Contact the residents on the lake who have been trained in identifying evasive species. MLA is steps ahead in terms of education of evasive species and being able to positively identify it. The next step would be to assess how much is out there and then create a plan for controlling and monitoring it. The earlier you find it the better it will to control it. Once introduced, it would most likely not be entirely eradicated.

Q: What should we expect about sediment build-up?

A: The bays will fill in over time, although it will take many years.

Q: What measurable effects do larger motors and jet skis have on silt, aquatic plant growth, etc?

A; On ML there is probably not enough activity to effect it. It's more of a sound pollution issue.

Q: Does the DNR have plans for these restrictions? Should we consider no wake areas in the bay?

A: Only if want to protect plant life

Q: Are there chemical treatments that can eliminate or minimize algae blooms?

A: Yes, but would not be effective on ML due to size of lake and cost.

Q: What if anything should lakefront owners do?

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A: Impact the lake the least amount you can. The more unnatural your shoreline the more you negatively affect the lake. Don't remove fallen trees, maintain a shoreline buffer.

Q: Would putting aerators in the northern bay or low bays help?

A: Tim does not feel it would help.

Questions from the audience:

Q: Does purple loosestrife exist in the lake. There are older DNR reports in a state register which state it does although this has not been confirmed.

A: Tim confirmed that purple loosestrife was not identified on ML during the lake study.

Q: Are there additional state funds or programs available to help protect our lake?

A: There are additional state grants available to help fund education programs and lake studies including adding "fish sticks" to provide fish habitat.

Jeff Currie came to talk about the Great Headwaters Trails program which is interested in establishing a bike and walking trail in eastern Vilas County to promote economic development. It is viable and this could be in place within the next 8 years primarily through community support. The plan is to develop access points along Highway 70 and either ride into Eagle River or into St. Germaine. The trail would be along the Wisconsin River from Highway O to the Otter Rapids Dam.

May 2012 Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the May board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Fiscal Year Report: Final balances are as follows:

Lake Improvement Fund	\$1864.60
Operational fund	\$950.49
MLA Fundraising/Socials	\$3254.40
Savings accounts Vilas Credit Union	\$36.58
Sub-Total Operational Funds	\$6106.07
NCU Share Certificates-2,3,4 and 5 YR Certificates	\$10,351.03
Total All Funds/Investments	\$16,457.10
Lake Study Fund	\$1799.57

Bill Raboin moved to approve the report, Judy Peterson seconded. Motion carried.

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Webmaster Report (Jeff Rappold): Jeff shared a presentation on the website and how it will continue to be valuable to the residents on the lake. It was not designed for and will never become a commercial site for advertising, etc. Jeff went through the various components of website and types of information posted including resident contact information posted under a resident-confidential portion of the site, recent as well as historical lake study information, current and historical meeting minutes and newsletters, new neighbor information, and committee reports. Musky.board@gmail.com is the MLA email address. Jeff will monitor the inbox which acts as a clearinghouse for emails about the site. Jeff created refrigerator magnets which contain reminders about the website.

Web Stats to date:

Launched March 15th

473 unique visits to the site

3000+ page views

Road Clean Up Committee: Bob Peterson has now retired from leading the committee. The Road Clean Up Committee typically covers the 3.2 mile stretch on both sides of Highway N from Highway G to Star Lake. Tom suggested perhaps we need to determine where to focus our volunteer hours, perhaps focusing more on boating landing inspections rather than roadside clean up. This will be discussed at subsequent board meetings.

Boat Landing Report: John Kurhajec indicated we have not had a lot of volunteer activity. Less than (9) inspections have been conducted by residents year to date. We need more participation. Training is available to any residents interested in participating. Once trained, you do not necessarily have to sign up ahead of time, you can go down to the landing anytime that is convenient to you, sign in and conduct the inspections. The supply chest is located behind the garage adjacent to the launch. John reviewed the new, simpler inspection report. We have spent \$600 year to date paying interns to augment the resident inspections.

Weed and Algae Committee: Gail Anderson was not able to be here but asked Justine to share the report. Gail has been monitoring the lake. No “weeds” have been noticed.

Social Committee: Mimi Johnston was not present. Judy Peterson indicated we could use a few more members to bring up the number. There are 7 currently, whereas membership in the recent past was around 20.

Fish Committee Report: Ed Kroggel provided an update. 2,500 small walleyes were stocked this spring (about 1 inch in size). 1,500 larger ones put in last fall. Survival rate is a very small percentage. Another option is for the lake association to purchase from private fishery larger fingerlings. These larger fingerlings generally run about \$2.50 a piece. The mortality rate is about 40% in the first year, 10% in subsequent years. Jeff Rappold noted the report from the DNR site on walleye stocking in prior years as being much higher.

Water Quality: Roger Johnston was not present. Roger does secchi dish testing, no other updates.

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Aerator Report: Tom shared the report in Bob Hodkiewicz's absence. There was excellent volunteer participation this year. Tom also reminded everyone that the blower was replaced after the bearings failed on the old one.

Grant Committee Report-Justine White-Richards: Justine has copies of the lake implementation plan if anyone is interested. Justine reminded everyone that due to the level of resident volunteer hours, MLA did not have to pay out of the budget for the study. Currently there is no active work on new grant projects. Fish sticks mentioned by Tim Hoyman may be a possibility.

Open Discussion: Gene Klingaman noted that during the boat parade the boats were too far out on the lake and did not come close enough to the shoreline. Ruth Cerull shared there was a lot of learning this year about the parade and took responsibility for that. Ruth thanked everyone for the participation.

Justine thought the VFW location worked out well for this annual meeting. Tom noted that next year we plan on having the annual meeting on the 4th Saturday in July at which time it will be held at the Kalmar Center which has been reserved for the occasion..

It was suggested that we use a microphone at future meetings to enable easier hearing.

Motion to close was made and seconded. Motion carried.