Muskellunge Lake Association
Annual Meeting
Kalmar Center
Meeting Minutes-July 29, 2017

Call to Order and Welcome: President, Mike Newmeister

Present **√**

President Mike Newmeister	√	Director John Kurhajec	√
Vice President Bill Raboin	√	Director Mark Fouts	√
Treasurer Roger Johnston	√	Director Tony Mattson	√
Secretary Kathleen Pallardy	√	Director Tom Cerull	√
Web Master Jeff Rappold	√		

Our speaker this year is Joe Pallardy from EOR in Minnesota. With the help of EOR a grant request was submitted and approved to respond to the EWM found in the lake.

Joe gave his background and updates on the good work some of the members of the MLA are doing to monitor the lake. Joe stressed the need to keep track over time of the population of the weeds on the lake. Joe talked about the treatment options. EWM grows from Florida all the way to Canada. It is a very resilient plant. The research to date has shown that the area around the center buoy area has the densest population on the lake of EWM found to date.

Joe reviewed the findings of the DNR Point Intercept Survey this summer. They found EWM on approximately 1.3% of the lake. As compared to the 2009 DNR lake study, it was also noted that there is not as much Native Water Milfoil on the lake. It makes sense to focus on the shallower parts of the lake as in water deeper than 9' it is more difficult for the EWM to take root given the clarity of our lake.

The 2017 DNR Point Intercept Survey included Floristic Quality Index. The more species you have and the higher the FQI score the better. In 2009 it was 35.11. It was also noted that the phosphorous level is going up, while at the same time the aquatic plant community is going down. This is not the direction we want it to go. A healthy diverse plant population is a good thing. Therefore the treatment we choose must protect the population of healthy plants.

Joe did a Focused Meander Study. From that we can determine how much it will cost to do a treatment of an area and which area we should focus on. This included a study of the content of the bottom of the lake. When you combine this information you can determine where the milfoil will most likely grow in the future. They are all in the areas with sandier areas. EWM does not like mucky bottoms. Joe also created Google Earth files that you can open up on your smartphone. Anyone who is interested can look at the points where the DNR and/or MLA has found infestations.

Evaluating Treatment Options: There was discussion on the various methods available to consider and the benefits, considerations and negatives of each option.

Do Nothing-not a good option as evidenced by the results of lakes like Boot Lake.

Volunteer Hand Removal-some other lake associations in the area such as Anvil Lake are doing this method with some success.

Diver assisted Suction Harvesting-we would hire a contractor out. It is being used on several lakes in Vilas County. They usually do it in the Spring when water clarity is the cleanest. Typical removal efficiency is 86%-94%. There was discussion amongst the membership that this may be the best option for the area by the buoy.

Herbicide Treatment-2,4-D is the most widely used herbicide. EWM was first discovered on the Eagle River Chain

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in 2004. Treatment areas reduced from 278 acres in 2007 to just 20 acres in 2016. By 2016 and 2017 the levels are down to the point where they no longer are treating it.

Biological (Weevil Control)-our lake has limited population of Native Water Milfoil so most likely the weevil population is not very high.

Center buoy and the area where the bulrushes area. The other areas were limited to a single plants.
There was a discussion on the phosphorous levels in the lake. It is higher than it should be. About 19% of it is correlated to faulty septic systems. It was also noted that keeping a healthy 10 to 20' riparian buffer will help to improve the health of the lake and prevent nutrients such as cut grass from getting in to the lake.

Album treatments can be used to bond to the phosphorous and lock it in there but it can be an expensive alternative. The first thing you want to do is block the external sources such as septic as it won't make sense to spend money to do the alum treatments if there continues to be phosphorous coming in from external sources.

Call to Order
Approval of Minutes: The minutes of last annual meeting approved as written.

Approval of Treasurer's Report
Treasurer's Report (Roger Johnston): Balances are as follows: Membership is at 76 households. Final 2016 Funds were as followed:

Operational Funds	
Lake Improvement Fund	$1,909.67
Operational Fund	$2,919.79
MLA Fundraising/Socials	2,747.64
Savings Accounts-Balance	$36.58
Sub Total Operational Funds	**$7,613.68**
Investment Certificates	
Certificate #441	$2,755.66
Certificate # 072	$2,811.01
Certificate # 073	$2,878.49
Certificate # 440	$2,757.35
Total All Funds/Investments	**$18,816.19**

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Committee Reports

Webmaster Report (Jeff Rappold): Jeff has been monitoring web traffic over time. Jeff will be using email for communications as well. 50% of the website access is from a tablet or a phone. Our current website is not necessarily conducive to usage from these types of devices so at some point in the future we may want to consider updating it. A lot of traffic is to the photo gallery and to the history of the lake.

Boat Landing Report (John Kurhajec): John noted the students from UW Oshkosh are continuing the monitoring. John shared a sample of the brochure he made to alert people to the EWM on the lake. The boating landing signage has not really changed. If anyone is interested in doing boat monitoring, please let John know. A brief three-hour training session is required. This is will contribute to in-kind hours toward the grant.

Social Committee (Mimi Johnston):
Mimi is looking for a chair person for the winter social. Judy Petersen is looking for someone to fill the "Sunshine" position. This person is responsible for sending get well and sympathy cards to people on the lake.

Aerator Report (Bob Hodkiewicz, Huddy) Huddy talked about the issues the aerator had this winter. There was an 18' crack in the pipe. Huddy acknowledged the help of all of the many volunteers that helped with the installation/deinstallation of the fencing. The oxygen levels have been higher than normal, with readings in the high 30's. Jeff Rappold found some special heat tape that should help to prevent the pipe from freezing. Huddy noted we have not had a freeze out since the aerator was originally installed in 1993.

Water Quality (Jeff Rappold): Jeff encouraged everybody to visit the DNR site for information on the lake. As Joe pointed out phosphorous is becoming the item we want to monitor. The DNR pays for the lab services for up to three tests a year. We may want to consider more monitoring. Over time the clarity has not changed much although there is a very slight decrease in clarity. Jeff is going to take oxygen sampling as well. If anyone is interesting in coming along, please let Jeff know. He takes it once a month. Mike noted there is also another grant we can consider, a lake monitor grant. This will gives us a larger view as to what is occurring in the lake.

Boat Parade-Tom Cerull talked about the boat parade this year. John and Maureen Kurhajec and family won with their creative "pirates-themed" boat. We had nine boats that entered. There were hot dogs and a food drive held afterwards. There was $150 in cash that came in for the food drive along with food donations. We work with Trigs to use the cash to provide food to the food pantry. Consideration may be given to do more in cash donations rather than food donations as the funds can be used to purchase more targeted food items as they are needed.

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The election for the new 2017/2018 MLA Board of Directors was conducted. The results are:

President, Mike Newmeister
Vice President, Bill Raboin
Treasurer, Roger Johnston
Secretary, Cheryl Breitenfeldt
Web Master, Jeff Rappold
Director, John Kurhajec
Director, Mark Fouts
Director, Tony Mattson
Director, Tom Cerull

Meeting Adjournment