

Muskellunge Lake Association  
Meeting Minutes  
May 7, 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:** Lake Residents and Committee Chairpersons Jeff Rappold, Ron and Justine White-Richards, Mimi Johnston, Bob and Susan Hodkiewicz.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the February board meeting were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Current balances are as follows:

Lake Improvement Fund	\$1243.29
Operational fund	\$1295.33
MLA Fundraising/Socials	\$3,746.40
Savings accounts Vilas Credit Union	\$36.58
<b>Sub-Total Operational Funds</b>	<b>\$6,321.60</b>
 NCU Share Certificates-2,3,4 and 5 YR Certificates	 \$10,299.09
<b>Total All Funds/Investments</b>	<b>\$16,620.69</b>
 Lake Study Fund	 \$1797.75
Lake Projects	\$0

Roger moved to reinvest the 2 year certificate maturing July 17, 2012 into a new certificate maturing in 2016. Motion carried.

As of today we have (87) paid memberships with (5) newsletter only memberships. This is the same membership rate as 2011 but down (5) from two years ago (2010). The percentage of lake front owner membership on Muskellunge is one of the highest for any home owner association in the area.

Motion made and seconded to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

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**Webmaster Report (Jeff Rappold):** Jeff passed out a Google analytics report which shows the website traffic since March 1<sup>st</sup> when the site went live. Website statistics to date include:

Visits: 193  
Unique Visitors: 93  
Pageview: 1,643  
Pages/Visit: 8.51  
Average Visit Duration 00:09:24  
Bounce Rate: 26.94%  
% New Visits: 42.49%  
57.51% Returned Visitors  
42.49% New Visitors  
61.14% came to the site through Direct Traffic  
37.31% came to the site through Search Traffic  
1.55% came to the site through Referral Traffic  
Most visited page on the site is the Photo Gallery

There have been three cases where someone has contacted the webmaster.

1. Regarding request from Tom regarding USGS.
2. Contact from the Kalmar Center to notify reservation conflict for the annual meeting.
3. Clean Boats Clean Water, new forms to post.

Jeff will continue to update the website. Bill Raboin shared information on webcam links which highlight wildlife and may be an interesting addition to the website. A suggestion was made to post an option in the next newsletter with instructions on how to unsubscribe from receiving hard copies of the newsletters given they are now posted to the website. This will help to reduce the printing and postage costs.

**Road Clean up Committee:** Bob Peterson indicated that he put a notice in the last newsletter. The date chosen was not optimal as the ditches were filled with water. Bob will send out a notice by email advising of the next date. Bob shared pictures from the last road cleanup and suggested they could be posted to the website.

**Boat Landing Report:** John Kurhajec was not in attendance but indicated there is a new report format from the DNR. The new report is designed to gather information regarding the knowledge of CBCW, the laws regarding the spreading of invasive species, etc. The volunteer rate has been low. It was suggested that the website can be updated to include information on the how to conduct inspections along with the form so that those who have not been able to attend the formal training may be able to conduct inspections. Also, inspections can be done at any time.

**Weed and Algae Committee:** Gail Anderson brought updated laminated posters of Curly-leaf Pondweed and Eurasian Water-Milfoil. A new invasive species to watch for is Hydrilla. It is not yet in Wisconsin but if it does come it will be a big problem. This is the time of year to watch out for these weeds as they come in. Jeff suggested posting these laminated pictures of these invasive species on the website to build awareness.

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**Social Committee:** Mimi Johnston will get over to the VFW facility to review it prior to the annual meeting. A screen and coffee pot will be needed for the annual meeting. If this year's venue turns out to work out well we will tentatively want it for the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in July going forward. The plan would be to return to the Kalmar Senior Center next year.

**Fish Committee Report:** Ed Kroggel and Dave Larson. Ed and Dave were not present. Our lake was speared this year. Muskellunge is now at a 3 limit lake for walleye however the sign at the boat launch still says 5 walleye limit. The DNR has a report of what has been speared. Tom will email Steve Gilbert at the DNR to see if the report is available. (Subsequent update from Tom and Steve Gilbert indicated that although there was an attempt to spear no fish were speared this year).

**Water Quality:** Roger Johnston. No updates

**Aerator Report:** Bob Hodkiewicz. The new pump is working fine. (7) volunteers helped to take down the fencing.

**Grant Committee Report-Justine White-Richards:** Justine shared that soon we will be getting a Town lakes newsletter which talks about what all the other lakes in the township are doing. Tom submitted an article on Muskellunge Lake. Boot Lake had applied and were approved to use weevils to treat Eurasian water milfoil.. This treatment will have a very low cost to the residents of Boot Lake with the exception of volunteer hours. They will be doing this in the June/ July timeframe. One part of the lake will be treated with weevils and one will not as a control point. The DNR, UW-extension are involved. The study will go on for 2 years. Justine shared that it seems weevils work well on some lakes and not on others, although the reasons have not yet been determined. Cloverland Township Lakes Committee has several events planned for the summer. Justine shared that there is a desire to have some of these lake associations with active lake management plans like Muskellunge and Boot to mentor other lake associations who currently do not have active lake monitoring or lake management plans. There are (26) lakes in the township. (21) are involved in the study. (5) were not. Some of the (21) however are not actively involved in the weed monitoring. Justine suggested and will follow up on inviting them to attend our annual meeting to learn more about our activities on Muskellunge.

We have one hard copy of the Onterra report. The report was passed around. It is also posted on and can be downloaded from the website. Due to the cost of printing, about \$25-30, it will not be printed unless requested by a resident at which point the cost will be assumed by the requester. Dennis suggested printing out the 2-3 summary pages of recommendations from the report specifically for Muskellunge to hand out at the meeting.

Tom suggested that the board send to him a list of 2-3 questions that he can share with Onterra before the annual meeting. Tom will group them and send to Tim. Dennis gave an example, adjustment on hours of "no-wake" time on the lake. A change such as this would require going to the Cloverland Town Board.

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Justine gave out (38) lake maps so far and we have about (60) more. We will bring these to the annual meeting.

**Old Business:**

Mike proposed a by-law revision to Sections 2 and 3 to bring to the annual meeting a proposal to add a Webmaster position to the Board of Directors. The qualities required for the position include an aptitude and an interest to do the work. Candidates would not run for the position. If approved, the bylaws would be updated to include a Board of Director whose composition would be the President, Vice-President, secretary, Treasurer, five (5) at large Directors, the Webmaster and the Past President. The Webmaster shall be appointed by the Board and serve at the pleasure of the Board. The Webmaster shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of the other Board members. The Webmaster will be selected on a one-year term.

There was a discussion on the speaker from Onterra at the annual meeting. The cost for the speaker could be as much as \$600, depending on his expenses and whether he is able to combine the travel expenses with other business meetings. It is expected the Onterra speaker will take at least one hour of the annual meeting time. Roger Johnston recommended controlling the questions which may come up at the annual meeting to insure they are appropriate to the study. The funds will most likely come out of the Lake Study Fund.

**Muskellunge Lake dam leakage-**Tom indicated the level indicator will be replaced. There is a pipe driven in the ground which changes with the freezing and thawing. A new level-indicating device will be installed, something more permanent with different survey points. Terry Cummins from the DNR had worked with it in 2008 and set the survey points and checked the level point at that time. The lake level has not changed much over the years. Tom asked him to work with Terry. This will not change the lake level but will monitor it. Justine indicated the lake level was decided in the 1945 time frame.

**New Business:**

There was a discussion on the dates for upcoming board meetings. Typically we do conduct a board meeting in the June timeframe but agreed not to have a June board meeting this year. There was also discussion on who on the current board may be interested in running for another term. Please speak with Tom directly to let him know your intent.

**Boat Parade:** Information on the first annual Fourth of July boat parade went out in the newsletter. We will ask Susan to print up a reminder of the board parade that the parade committee will distribute. Rules are we will go around the lake a couple of times starting at 2:00 p.m. on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Participants then can optionally meet in the middle of the lake for social time and bring along a dish to pass. Just decorate the starboard (right hand side) of the boat, as we will be going counter clockwise around the lake. The parade committee is working on getting an objective team from outside the lake to do the judging. A trophy is being made which will be inscribed with the winner(s) who will hold it for a year and then pass it along to the winner the

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subsequent year. July 4<sup>th</sup> is on a Wednesday this year which could limit participation. It's possible that in future years the judging may be by class of boat (pontoon boat, fishing boat, etc).

Motion to close was made and seconded. Motion carried.