

**Muskellunge Lake Association
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes-January 24, 2015**



Call to Order and Welcome: President, Mike Newmeister

Present ✓

President Mike Newmeister	✓	Director John Kurhajec	✓
Vice President Bob Petersen	✓	Director Bill Raboin	
Treasurer Roger Johnston	✓	Director Dennis Rydzewski	✓
Secretary Kathleen Pallardy	✓		
Web Master Jeff Rappold			

Also present were MLA members Tom Cerull and Bob Hodkiewicz.

The minutes of the last meeting held on August 23rd were approved via email.

Treasurer's Report (Roger Johnston): Balances are as follows:

Financial Statement Q1 2015

Lake Improvement Fund

Beginning Balance	\$1,943.26
Receipts	\$4,980.67
Disbursements	\$4,743.35
Balance	\$2,180.58

Operational Fund

Beginning Balance	\$806.97
Receipts	\$1,845.50
Disbursements	\$934.12
Balance	\$1,718.35

MILA Fundraising/Socials

Beginning Balance	\$3,693.73
Receipts	\$1,423.00
Disbursements	\$1,346.72
Balance	\$3,770.01

Savings Accounts-Balance	\$36.58
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Sub-Total Operational Funds	\$7,705.52
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Investment Certificates

Beginning Balance	\$10,699.36
Interest	\$174.06
Balance	\$10,873.42

Total All Funds/Investments	\$18,578.94
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Lake Study Fund

Beginning Balance	\$1,210.40
Receipts	\$1.82
Balance	\$1,212.22

We received confirmation of our grant request for the 2015 Clean Boats Clean Water Grant Award (CBCW-189-15). The grant time period is from February 15, 2015 through December 31, 2015. All project activities must occur within this time period. We received the advance payment of \$566.50 to cover costs the MLA may incur in the initial stages of the project.

2014 taxes have been completed.

The topic of the newsletter was discussed. 3 or 4 people sent in additional \$5 to receive extra copies of the newsletter. We will continue to send paper copies of the newsletter for 2015. After that the board's direction is to post the newsletters to the website. This will save time and postage. Roger will contact these people and to refund their money.

There are 78 MLA members as of Friday.

A motion was made to accept the financial report. Motion carried

Committee Reports

Webmaster Report (Jeff Rappold):

There is not much new to report on the web as usage does taper off in the off season but the website still gets about 3 hits a day. Most of these are from search engines. Of those users who go beyond the first page they stay about 5 minutes and view about 3 pages. We are up to 33 users on Facebook but activity has been slow since summer.

I did further research into adding want ads, blog, alerts etc. to our web site. I recommend that we do NOT add that functionality at this time. As soon as we add two way interactions on our site, it opens the site to a significant traffic and many hackers and all the bad that comes along with it. Our current web host (Dreamhost) would charge us significantly more to keep up our site due to the increased risky traffic. So far we have had no problems and I hope to keep it that way as I don't really know how to fix it if we get hacked. My thought is the real solution to this is to use the power built into social networking sites. I know not everyone is there but Facebook is now available on most smartphones and thus our user base should improve over time. We could also consider adding a link in the secured area that would create a mass email to all members.

Aerator Report (Bob Hodkiewicz): The aerator fence was installed on Saturday, January 3rd. The installation went well. It was noted that the dip stick reader, took a while to thaw out about an hour and a half. Next year we may want to try something different. Bob ended up taking an auger and going around the pipe to help melt it. . Maybe we can try to build an insulated box around the pipe. To be effective the heating tape should have some air. There was discussion about having some sort of a bubbler to keep the water inside of the pipe from freezing A under that could withstand the elements, may be costly and that unit itself should not be exposed. Normally we have been using 4 wheelers, this year had trouble maneuvering so decided to use a snowmobile. It worked well. It was noted that there was about 15 inches of ice whereas last year at this time the ice was 30 inches thick.

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Water Quality (Jeff Rappold):

Water sampling was done four times this past summer. Secchi Disk visibility was within normal range for the year. We did have a spike in the Chlorophyll level in the July test but it returned to normal in August. You probably remember how green it got mid-summer. Considering I believe we had higher water levels most of the summer, it didn't affect the chemistry significantly. There was an interesting discovery this year. Each of the June, July, and August tests were done after moderately breezy days. The temperature profile from top to bottom was within tenths all the way from top to bottom. I expected much more stratification but the whole lake must be mixing top to bottom after windy days. I'm not sure it means anything other than being interesting. I signed us up again for water testing next year.

If you have any questions on either of these items, you can call me at 920.585.9133

Social Committee (Mimi Johnston):

32 MLA members signed up to come to the Winter Social. Miriam asked Mike to say a few words at the beginning of the evening.

Boat Landing Report (John Kurhajec): As stated above we received the grant contract for the 2015 CBCW program. The price went up from \$2600 last year to \$3020 this year. The DNR has indicated that this summer there will be closer supervision of the students conducting the monitoring to insure they are staying for the entire allotted time. After ten years servicing as the Vilas county Invasive Species Coordinator, Ted Ritter is retiring. Current state funding for the position expires April of 2016. Renewed state funding is uncertain. Historically we have had very little participation from land owners to conduct inspections and expect it will remain low in the future. However, if the grant program which funds the students inspections is discontinued we will want to have more active participation by the owners. Anybody who conducts boat landing inspections has to be retrained because there are new rules. It was noted that the area around the boat landing is most likely the highest risk area on the lake for invasive plant species. A suggestion was made to focus inspections on that area. The lake association has a weed rake for this purpose. It will be left over by the boat landing near the literature bin.

Old Business

MLA Membership signs: There was continued discussion on engaging a graphic artist to put the Muskellunge logo into digital format which could then be used for the membership signs, as well as on letterhead and other items. There is ongoing investigation to determine if we continue to use the existing logo or create a new one and if the digital logo will be created by someone in the MLA or an outside party. If an outside party is used determination will have to be made as to ownership of the logo.

Rock Pile Marking: The board discussed the desire to create more awareness and warning of the rock pile on the lake for the safety of all boaters on the lake. One suggestion is to put a notice at the landing which displays the low part of the lake to warn boaters of the low area around the rock pile. However there was concern that the sign may be ignored. Some of the board members did research on the cost of purchasing a more visible buoy and one that is better suited for shallow water. A company called [Rolwan](#) sells one which for \$329 plus shipping. There was discussion about the best ways to secure the buoys and to double-check with the DNR whether a new permit will be required to install it or whether the permit on file will suffice. There was a motion to purchase two new buoys. Motion was seconded. Motion carried. Mike will contact the Jeff Dauterman, DNR Recreational Safety Warden to obtain the DNRs recommend for an anchoring system.

New Business: None

Meeting Adjournment