



MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

June 2018

www.mwai.org

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.

Presidents’ Corner

By Bob Frye

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

On June 8, 2018 at the request of Michigan Waterways Commission Chair Dennis Nickels I made the following presentation. I am pleased with the progress we are making in regards to the MWA / DNR Taskforce.

All I ask at this time is for more Individual and Lake Association members.

Sincerely,

Bob Frye Michigan Waterfront Alliance, President

MWA presentation to Michigan Waterways Commission June 8, 2018

1. Background of Michigan Waterfront Alliance
2. Background of Michigan Lakes Stewardship Associations
3. Problems:
 - a. Waterways and DNR Parks policies regarding the creation and unsupervised operation of public access sites that greatly exacerbate the spread of aquatic invasive species throughout all of Michigan’s inland lakes.
 - b. Waterways and DNR Parks policies and practices that violate the Public Trust Doctrine of Trusteeship over Michigan’s Inland Lakes that do harm. The Public Trust Doctrine holds that certain natural resources like navigable inland lakes are, in perpetuity, reserved for public use and enjoyment. Applying a banking analogy, the State of Michigan serves as the trustee for the public trust and is charged with maintaining the trust or common natural resources for the benefit of current and future generation of Michiganders, who are the beneficiaries of the trust. Like a bank trustee, the **State of Michigan, through their appointed trustees The Michigan State Waterways Commission, the DNR and the DEQ, as the trustee of our inland lakes, must exercise due diligence and make a good faith effort to preserve and protect our lakes.** Like a bank trustee, if the State of Michigan fails to discharge its trustee responsibilities properly, it is subject to judicial review and, where appropriate, judicial sanctions.
 - c. Financial burden suffered by Michigan inland lake riparian property owners in regards to the cost of aquatic invasive species control and eradication when the major cause of the infestation was from watercraft being launched at Waterways created access sites.
4. Creation of MWA – DNR Taskforce

- A. Summer 2017 Call to Arms letter to Lake Associations and individual riparian property owners.
 - B. Meeting with Chief Olson to address over 18,000 members of lake associations and individuals who supported the call to arms petition.
 - C. Creation of the MWA – DNR Task Force
 - D. Moving forward with a multitude of Task Force initiatives including but not exclusive to:
 - a. Address a scope for a strategic plan like Colorado, Minnesota, and Washington that would frame in the need and what a management program would include. This would include what has been done, what works, how to measure results, options that would include what financial resources would be required.
 - b. Build a case for changing the Michigan Constitution to allow monies from the Michigan Natural Resource Trust fund to be used for AIS boat washes and inspections at launch sites and to share in the cost of control and eradication on the whole lake.
 - c. Ask the Michigan Attorney General for an opinion regarding the responsibility of Waterways and Parks to uphold the public trust regarding allowing the spread of invasive species at Waterways / DNR access sites.
 - d. Expand the public awareness of the necessity of Clean Boats for Clean Lakes. Including but not exclusive to informational signage, Secretary of State Boater registration AIS pledge and insert of printing on back on envelope, web sites (savemichiganlakes.com), DNR emails, B role video, MWA and MLSA notices and alerts, social media (DNR facebook, twitter etc), partnership with Pure Michigan, AIS awareness week, MSU portable boat washes etc.
 - e. Revisit Waterways boater registration fee increases, including registration of kayaks, special surcharge for AIS control, etc.
5. Next steps for Task Force strategy going forward with Waterways support
- A. Identify Problems – what should be looked at and analyzed.
 - B. Study Washington and other states AIS programs and create an robust outline from best parts of all.
 - C. Define the scope of work
 - D. Send Request For Proposal
 - E. Contract a consultant
 - F. Through the efforts of the Michigan Waterfront Alliance, Michigan Lakes Stewardship Associations and DNR Parks, campaign for legislation that fulfills strategy goals.

If you find a dues envelope in this packet it means that we have not received your 2018 dues. Please put a check in it and send it today!

- **See insert containing Waterways Resolution(#04-2018-06) acknowledging need for plan regarding AIS**

We need your help to save Michigan's Lake and Streams,

Sincerely,
 Bob Frye,
 MWA President



MWA Legislative Issues Update – June 2018

The Legislature will be wrapping up budget work in June, in preparation for summer recess and the upcoming election season. Following is an update with respect to items of particular interest to the Michigan Waterfront Alliance:

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund & State Parks Endowment Fund changes:

Senate Bills 763, 931, and 932 and Senate Joint Resolution O would allow more flexibility for the expenditure of Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and Michigan State Parks Endowment Fund dollars. Of particular interest to MWA is new language allowing limited funds from the state parks endowment fund to be utilized for prevention of aquatic invasive species and one-time management of aquatic invasive species in connection with local public recreation projects.

While the language is not perfect, it reflects a legislative compromise and a first step towards providing state funding and assistance for AIS management on inland lakes and streams. As the proposed changes would amend the Michigan Constitution, 2/3 approval by both the House and Senate is necessary in order to place the changes on the August primary election ballot for voter approval. The Senate has approved the legislation, but it faces an uncertain future in the House.

MWA-DNR AIS Task Force:

MWA continues to participate in a joint AIS task force with the DNR, and we are making progress towards a number of mutual goals including greater communication and coordination going forward.

CLMP Update:

MWA has been working in cooperation with ML&SA advocating for continued funding of the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) in the DEQ budget. Legislators have noted that they are hearing more support and feedback for the CLMP program than for any other program currently funded in the Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI), a environmental cleanup bonding proposal passed by Michigan votes in 1998.

As CMI funding is running out, CLMP and other programs are now on the chopping block unless the Legislature finds a new funding source for these types or programs, either from a dedicated revenue stream or via funding from the state General Fund. As next year's state budget nears completion, we should know more about the future of CLMP sometime over the next two weeks. Thank you to all MWA members who have taken time to email or call your legislators to share your opinion about the importance of this program, you are making a difference!

August Primary Election

Finally, as the Legislature prepares to adjourn for the summer, MWA wants to remind members of the importance of getting to know state and local candidates in preparation for the August primary election. This year we will see a larger turnover of state elected officials than normal due to term limits, and in many areas of the state, the primary election essentially decides the general election due to the partisan base numbers of many legislative districts.

MWA encourages you to reach out to candidates running for the Legislature to educate them about issues of importance to us, as the primary is less than three months away.

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(For review of other watershed legislative matters, see our web site - <http://www.mwai.org/>)

MICHIGAN chapter NORTH AMERICAN LAKE MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

McNALMS includes members from state, federal and local agencies as well as professionals working in limnology, biology, fisheries, recreation, and engineering. Through this affiliation, McNALMS is able to draw on the expertise of scientists, engineers, policymakers, and citizens from throughout the world.

McNALMS

- Provides articles on Lake Management (water quality, aquatic plants, fish, exotic species and other topics.)
- Encourages cooperation and interaction among lake and watershed managers to address problems impacting Michigan's lakes.
- Promotes the sharing of information and experiences on scientific, financial, administrative, legal, and legislative aspects of lake and watershed management and policy and legislation influence.
- Fosters the development of lake restoration and protection programs at local, state, and national levels.
- Provides education through our web site, newsletters, and an Annual Fall Conference.
- Provides a forum for citizens and managers to share ideas and promote common objectives

**Dues are \$25 for an Individual Member, \$50 for a Lake Board /Association/Non-profit membership,
\$100 for a Corporation membership**

For more information and/or a membership application, visit us at www.mcnalms.org

Michigan Lake and Stream Associations

News and Views for Summer of 2018

By Scott Brown, ML&SA Executive Director

We are very pleased to report that the 2018 Michigan Lake & Stream Associations 57th Annual Conference was an unequivocal success. Held on Friday and Saturday, April 20th – 21st at the Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville, MI. This year's convention attracted 250 guests who took part in a great opportunity to learn more about Michigan's awesome treasure of over 11,000 inland lakes. This conference was organized around a theme of "preserving your freshwater gem, the essentials of lake stewardship" and anchored by four outstanding keynote speakers.

Honoring our past and recognizing the vital role Michigan's lake associations have in preserving the health and vitality of our inland lake heritage for the future, our Board of Directors recently voted to change the name of our organization to Michigan Lake Stewardship Associations (MLSA). See the summer 2018 issue of The Michigan Riparian for further information. On that note, everyone at MLSA wishes you a fun, relaxing, enjoyable, and safe summer on Michigan's wonderful inland lakes and streams!



Membership Application

(Dues for 2018 are due January 2018)

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:

_____ () _____ - _____ () _____ - _____
Last Name First Name Day Phone Evening Phone

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Street Address City State Zip Code Email Address

_____ _____ _____
County Township Lake or Stream Association if established

Make Checks payable to: **Michigan Waterfront Alliance**
Mail to: **MWA, P.O. Box 369**
Fenton, MI 48430

Individual (\$50)	_____
Lake Assoc. (\$100)	_____
Corp. (\$200)	_____
Legal Assist. Fund	_____
Total Enclosed	\$ _____

June 18

SUMMARY MWA MEETING(S)



MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE, INC. BOARD MEETING

May 24, 2018 –12:00 noon – Karoub, Lansing

Minutes (unapproved)

1. Meeting called to order at 12:05 pm. Present were Frye, S. Brown, L. Nordeen, Highfield, Wm Carey and R. Brown. Absent E. Mahoney. proxy to R. Frye. Also present were M. Kurta of Karoub & Dane Carey.
2. Minutes of previous meeting were corrected and approved.
3. Treasurer’s Report was presented for review and accepted. Noted that MLSA not charging MWA for Riparian ad.
4. President’s Report-reviewed Task Force meeting that he and S. Brown & Lon had just attended today. It was felt that great progress was made at this meeting. Frye introduced Dane Carey and provided some important background

5. M. Kurta reviewed with the Board the current legislative issues.
6. R. Brown reported the current membership status(96 total). Also noted an approximate amount of \$3000 just given to Treasurer not included in his report.
7. S. Brown reported on McNALMS focus on upcoming Inland Lakes Conference.
8. L. Nordeen reported on the 3rd bi*annual convention of October 4 and 5th at Crown Plaza, Grand Rapids.
9. C. Cornell read and submitted a written report on swimmers itch partnership.
10. S. Brown was very pleased with the 57th MLSA Annual conference.
11. The 2018 MWA ballot for the Board members S. Brown, Highfield and Cornell be the slate approved for election by the MWA Board.
12. The dates for MWA Annual meeting and Annual Board meeting were established as September 11, 2018 at 10:00 am at the office of Karoub.

13. Summer newsletter will include the ballot and Presidents letter approving the slate.

14. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm

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Stanton, MI 48888

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Street Address/PO Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

E-Mail _____

June 2018

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

**MICHIGAN WATERFRONT
ALLIANCE,
ONLY THROUGH
YOUR ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT,
IS YOUR LAKE PROTECTED.**

**Your Support Does
Make a difference!
It's an investment that pays off!**

Lobbyists are NOT FREE, but individual membership in MWA is VERY CHEAP; it costs just \$50 a year, your lake Association is only \$100. Think of it as an insurance policy against the erosion of the value of your riparian rights of your valuable property.

MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE
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