MANITOWOC COUNTY LAKES ASSOCIATION

"The Manitowoc County Lakes Association will protect and enhance the quality of area lakes and watersheds for the benefit of all."

General Membership Meeting

6-26-25 6:30 pm

Room 300, Soil & Water Conservation Building

4219 Expo Drive, Manitowoc, WI 54245

2024-2025 Officers:
President: Jerry Corfman
Vice President: Maria Lynch
Treasurer: Marcia Salm
Secretary: Scott Umland
Press Sec: Roger Vander Logt

Past President:
Tom Ward

Lake Directors

Bullhead Lake
Ron Gerrits

Carstens Lake
Brian Robley

Cedar Lake
Cynthia Leitner
Mike Strebe

English Lake
Kim Skattebo

Gass Lake
Richard Blashka

Harpt and Tuma Lakes
Dan Dufek

Hartlaub Lake
Gene Weyer

Horseshoe Lake
Matt Piper

Lake Michigan
John S. Durbrow

Long Lake
Chuck Kiehn

Pigeon Lake
Randy Steinbruecker

Silver Lake
Brett Hubbartt

Spring Lake
vacant

Wilke Lake
Fred Ruszkiewicz

MEETING MINUTES:

- Called to order by Jerry Corman, President.

Conservation Wardens Isaac Hackett & David Bennett:

Isaac Hackett:

- Marine Conservation Warden for Sheboygan and Manitowoc County. Mainly on Lake Michigan and its tributaries. Isaac routinely patrols inland lakes. He went to college at Stevens Point, WI and was previously with the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department.

David Bennett:

- Conservation Warden for Sheboygan County. Patrols the eastern half of Sheboygan and Manitowoc Counties and routinely visits Kohler Andre and Point Beach. David spent 30 years in the education field and switched to being a Conservation Warden.
- They commonly perform watercraft safety and fishing checks.
- Wardens can enforce state laws and slow no wake but don't enforce local ordinances.
- Slow no wake is considered the minimum speed to maintain control of the vessel.
- New rule for federal waters, Lake Michigan & Lake Winnebago are federal waters, a fire extinguisher must have an expiration date. Kill switch lanyard is also required.
- Personal floatation devices are the most common violation. This includes non-motorized vessels such as kayaks, paddleboards and canoes.
- A motorized hydrofoil is regulated the same as other motorized boats.
- Boat launches are commonly checked and draining of the vessels water is enforced.
- A laser range finder is used many times to determine if there is a distance violation from other vessel or shoreline violation.
- If a person sees a violation and wants to report is the WDNR tip line may be the most effective way to have a Conservation Warden dispatched.
- Tip line phone number is 1-800-TIP-WDNR.
- It is very helpful if as much detailed information is provided.

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General Business Meeting

- **Secretary's Report** - Reading of the last meeting minutes waived. They are on the MCLA website. Motion to accept made by Jerry Gospodarek and seconded by Vince Miller and carried.

- **Treasurer's Report**

$11,366.29 balance in general account
$9,856.15 balance in grant account

2025 Membership consists of:

62 Members
14 Lake Associations
4 Website Banner Ads
17 Donations

Motion to accept by Dan Dufek and 2nd by Roger Vander Logt. The motion carried.

Jerry Corfman discussed that the grant account has been going down. MCLA is not applying for new grants at this time and the account could go down to zero or be closed in the future.

- **General discussion/MCLA Hazardous Wake Resolution:**

  - Jerry Corfman read the below Hazardous Wake Size Resolution that is to be voted on this evening. Jerry also discussed that MCLA members are allowed one vote. Association members are allowed one vote. The voting was done with a show of hands the results were:

    - Individual Members: 11 approved 0 opposed
    - Association Members: 8 approved 0 opposed

  - Jerry will send the resolution to legislator.

6/26/2025
Hazardous Wake Size Resolution
Resolution 2025 - #1

The Manitowoc County Lakes Association proposes that the following non- binding resolution be adopted to communicate our concern regarding the adverse side effects to Manitowoc County's lakes created by the use of boats creating hazardous wake sizes.

Be it resolved that the Manitowoc County Lakes Association (MCLA) supports at a minimum a "hazardous wake" restriction preventing the intentional generation of hazardous wakes within 500 feet from any shoreline or any other water user on a lake or river and in waters less than 20 feet in depth.

Be it also resolved that although this resolution is intended for Manitowoc County lakes, MCLA recommends that hazardous wakes only be allowed on State of Wisconsin lakes that are 500 acres in size or larger to provide adequate space for the safety of all water users and mitigate any possible environmental impacts created by generation of these hazardous wakes.

For the purpose of this resolution a hazardous wake means a boat wake the height of which is intentionally amplified through the use of added ballast, boat design features or other operational procedures that are used to

increase the size of the motorboat's wake. These enhanced wakes are generally created at speeds of 15 miles per hour or less with the boat operating in a continual bow up position.

Note that the intent of this resolution does not prohibit the use of any type of boat on Manitowoc County lakes; it only prohibits the creation of the hazardous wake sizes by said boats via the methods stated above.

Also, because each and every waterbody may have its own unique properties the MCLA resolution recognizes that in order to protect a specific waterbody, local municipalities shall have the right to enact or maintain local ordinances that are more restrictive than any statewide minimum that may be enacted.

Additionally, in order to aid in the prevention of invasive species, boats that move from lake to lake must safely decontaminate or remove residual onboard water prior to entering another waterbody.

Respectfully,
Jerry Corfman
President – Manitowoc County Lakes Association

- **Newsletter Update:** There are approximately 6 weeks before the articles must be given to Dave Pozorski.

- **Future meetings:**
- 8-28-25 Soil and Water building. Jason Breeggemann, Fisheries Biologist, presentation. 10-11-25 annual banquet at Viking Bow and Gun. Planning 4:30 cocktails and 5:30 diner. The speaker is being worked on. Lake Stewardship candidates need to be turned in soon. Altona Supper Club is catering the meal.
- 11-20-25, hopefully there will be updates on the Carsten Lake project.
- 2026 Dates: 2-26-26, 4-23-26, 6-25-26, 8-27-26, 11-19-26. The annual meeting/banquet date and location is to be determined.

Lake and other reports

- **Bullhead Lake:** No Report
- **Carsten's Lake:** UW student is now doing the water monitoring. After they get some baseline data the Poseidon Pellets bags will be used. The bags are to be put on a berm in around a foot of water. The bags may have to be replaced annually.
- **Cedar Lake:** The lake association decided to refrain from voting on the hazardous wake resolution to avoid controversy. The association did a lake survey on the subject and the results were very diverse. There is discussion about possibly changing the number of parties on the sanitary district from 3 to 5.
- **Cedar Lake/Sanitary District 1, Township of Schleswig:** The document below was read by Mike Strebe on behalf of Scott Otterson, Sanitary District Commissioner.
- **English Lake:** They would like to be kept up to date on when they need to submit their article for the newsletter. The lake is working on the grant process for treating milfoil. They have also been discussing the possibility of changing their no wake regulation.
- **Gass Lake:** No Report
- **Harpt Lake:** All organizations surveyed are in favor of the previous discussed and voted on land purchase. The transfer is in the process. They are looking for best contact information for the WES Foundation for possible grant. They are also looking for contact direction for planning and mapping of the parking lot and bathroom.
- **Hartlaub Lake:** No Report
- **Horseshoe Lake:** Matt Piper may be the new lake representative. There is a concern with the phosphorus level. The lake is considering obtaining a lake management plan. Both Soil and Water and Sanitary District 1 felt it would be a good idea. The lake has around 20 families on the lake and maybe 10 are active
- **Kasbaum Lake:** No Report
- **Lake Michigan:** No Report
- **Long Lake:** Milfoil has come back heavy. They have also noticed blue/green algae. The lake has been getting a lot of fishing pressure and the boat traffic is heavy. The discussion took place about a rule pertaining to the number of parking lot spaces that need to be provided based on the number of lake acres. The lake association may want to talk to the township regarding parking on the shoulder of the road
- **Pigeon Lake:** They had a 12' secchi disk reading. Weed growth is very active this year. They are thinking it could be partially from very little if any snow cover this past winter..

- **Little Pigeon:** No Report
- **Shoe Lake:** No Report
- **Silver Lake:** No Report
- **Spring Lake:** No Report
- **Sy Lake:** No Report
- **Tuma Lake:** No Report
- **Twin Lake:** No Report
- **Weyers Lake:** No Report
- **Wilke Lake:** The Lake had a milfoil treatment in May of this year. The plan is to continue to use the harvester to control the other weeds not affected by the treatment. Fish sticks were installed off of the DNR property over the past winter. Water quality appears to be going in the right direction. There was a discussion that the lake was or wasn't treated in the past. Checking with the DNR was inconclusive. Jerry Corfman remembers a treatment sometime in the early to middle 1970's. An AED was purchased by the Lake Association. It was discussed that Heart-A-Rama from Manitowoc, WI is an organization that helps places with money for the purchase of AED. Contact Heart-A-Rama soon as there is a waiting list.
- **Soil and Water:** Nothing additional to add.
- **Manitowoc County Fish & Game:** No Report

Cedar Lake Update by Scott Otterson, Sanitary District Commissioner and Cedar Lake Improvement Member 6/26/25

Please read my update into the meeting records.

Successful DNR Grant for Herbicide Treatment:

The DNR grant to the Sanitary District for Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) treatment was only one of seven awarded. A chemical treatment for EWM occurred on May 27th. The DNR is contributing $53,000. No signs of any EWM have been found and the native plant community is thriving! – Should last 3-5 years. Total Cost ~$97,000

Fishery Update:

5,267 Walleye fingerlings were stocked in the lake on June 16th. The DNR Biologist has been working with the Sanitary District to improve the fishery by revising the lake's current regulations. The recent Spring DNR/Wisconsin Conservation Congress Survey had overwhelming support to;

- Set the bag limit to 10 pan fish with a maximum of 5 bluegills. This is based on DNR Study Findings.
- Set a Northern slot limit to return fish between 25 inches and 35 inches with a 2 fish bag limit to promote a reduction in small fish and improvement in growth rates.
- It's anticipated that these new regulations will go into effect in the Spring of 2026

Successful DNR Grant for Boat Inspection:

The DNR awarded the Sanitary District a $3,000 grant to pay for youth monitors at the boat landing. The Grant is being managed by a volunteer that has organized youth from the ages of 12 through 18 to take surveys and explain the importance of cleaning and draining boats to prevent transfer of invasives. These paid youth are supplemented by unpaid adults that contributed over 400 hours last year.

Outhouse Upgrade:

Concerns over a County outhouse having stained concrete floors led to a cooperative improvement in the outhouse at the landing. The lady managing the Clean Boats Clean Waters Program wanted a nicer facility for her monitors at the landing. Contacts with Parks and Planning Director Tim Ryan resulted in approval of volunteer donated labor and expenses. The floor was degreased, prepared, and sealed with a colorful epoxy covering which provides an amazing look and ease of maintenance. Donations that were added were a Packer end-table, Mirror, and a Signed numbered framed watercolor of two ducks. Stop by for a look and we are challenging others to top it.

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Bait Station installed at Landing:

A local resident installed a 24-hour bait station at the landing. It has red worms and nightcrawlers in a self-serve display with a payment box. Another great idea that could catch on.

Free Loner Library Kiosk:

Another resident provided a loaner library kiosk at the landing. It has a variety of kids and adult books. Another great community idea.

Cedar Lake Improvement Association Wave Enhancement Non-vote

After much concern at the April MCLA meeting by the President of the CLIA, the Wave Enhancement Resolution was tabled to allow for a polling at the Spring CLIA meeting. At the Spring CLIA Meeting, she took the regular Sanitary District Update off of the agenda. No opportunity for discussion of the MCLA Resolution was brought to the floor and no vote was taken.

Three days before tonight's meeting, she sent out a biased survey with a two-day response time. It was not sanctioned by the CLIA membership nor reviewed by all of the CLIA Board of Directors.

Town of Schleswig submits Draft Wave Enhancement Restriction Ordinance

The Town of Schleswig supported and approved the submittal of a Draft Ordinance for Wave Enhancement Restriction to the DNR for their review of compliance with the State regulations.

Over 80% of surveyed Cedar Lake residents want an ordinance and the Sanitary District unanimously feel that it is necessary to preserve Cedar Lake having an average depth of 9 feet with wave enhancing affecting lake bottoms over 25 feet in depth.

Motion to adjourn made by Dan Dufek and 2nd by Roger Vander Logt. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Scott Umland,
MCLA Secretary