

**Spring
MLRA Newsletter #124
April 2016**

**Message from MLRA Board of Directors
MLRA Board of Directors**

In 1992, a man with great expectations of a lake community initiated the process of establishing what is now known as the Moon Lake Riparian Association (MLRA). We thank Jim Reiels for creating and his constant contributions to the MLRA. On March 21, 2016 the board accepted his resignation as a board member and the office of secretary/treasurer. Both he and Jean will be returning to the Milwaukee area to be closer to their family. It is without saying how much this Association is in debt to all the hours, visions and commitments he has made on our behalf. Thank you Jim and Jean.

We offered Frank Kuchevar to fill our recent vacancy. He said "yes", and so it is with great pleasure that we welcome Frank to the Board. He has previously served on the MLRA Board and (again) will provide us with great leadership.

We would also like to thank Sheila McConagy for taking over Jim's secretary/treasurer responsibilities.

Please review the minutes of our special board meeting. As mentioned, we will have a membership vote to validate the changes we have suggested.

Letter from The President

Tom Chase

Your association provides a web site (www.moonlake.org) reporting lake health, nature articles, and DNR assessments from our reporting, and our own weather station! We also hope to have an analysis performed on the fish population (e.g. mercury content). The site also is home to current and archived newsletters for your review.

We are also in the process of promoting the social aspect of our association. We currently have an "Up North Ladies" group that generally meet once a month and check out our local food establishments to dine and share lots of laughter. Some of the men meet for libation and food on the same night the ladies gather. It is a nice evening to socialize and get to know your fellow association members. Notifications to both ladies and men will be sent via email.

In past years we would have a MLRA social at one of the member's home where all of the membership is invited to meet their neighbors and enjoy a bit of food and drink. In the spirit of these past events, Judy and I will be hosting MLRA get together on the 13th of August 2016 (Saturday afternoon). Please mark your calendar for this event.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

MARCH 21, 2016

Moon Lake Riparian Assn, March 21, 2016

Board Meeting called to order at 1:40 pm .

Attendees were Sheila McConaghy, Jim Reiels, Dick Gottman, Bob Turnquist, Dale Sharpee, Mary Pat Kelly, and Tom Chase.

Treasurer's report is as follows:

Checking balance is 789.87; Savings is 3333.13; and the ANS Fund balance is 4253.14.

The board was asked if we have any more MLRA Membership signs left. Jim Reiels was going to look and report back.

The Board accepted Jim Reiels resignation as a board member and the Sec/Treasurer. 2nd by MP Kelly and passed unanimously.

Sheila McConaghy accepted the position of Sec/Treas. Of MLRA. 2nd by MP Kelly passed unanimously. This position is interim and must be voted upon at the annual meeting.

Dale Sharpee moved to remove Peter Olk and Jim Reiels signatures on the bank accounts. Also to Add Tom Chase and Sheila McConaghy to the accounts. 2nd by MP Kelly and passed unanimously.

Sheila relinquished her position of Loon Reporting.

The Board has extended an invitation to Frank Kuchevar to attend a board meeting.

Dale Sharpee made a motion to Thank Jim Reiels for his 24 years of service on the Board, 2nd by Tom Chase and passed unopposed.

Dick Gottmann volunteered to be the liaison to the fisheries representative at the DNR. Jim Reiels reviewed the treasurer/secretary responsibilities. Called attention to the need for annual filing of a report with the State of Michigan and a version of Form 990 with the IRS. All filings have been done for 2015.

Adjourned at 2:20 pm .

Next meeting scheduled on June 28, 2016 at the Pine Cone Cafe 9:00 am.

Submitted by Sheila McConaghy

Lake Notes - Spring 2016

by Dale Sharpee

Lake Level and Ice Cover 2015-2016– At the time of the initial ice-over on November 30th the level at the gauge was 4.00 feet. 2015 was the first year since 2006 that the level of the lake exceeded 4.00 feet for the open water season. The lake partially re-opened on December 14th and did not completely ice over until December 28th. The lake was ice free on April 21st. There were 115 days of ice cover from December 27th to April 21st. In 2014-2015 there were 147 days of ice cover. The lake level at ice-out was 4.44 feet. This compares to a level of 4.38 feet at ice-out on April 17, 2015. So we begin the open water season with the level of the lake at levels that were last encountered at the beginning of the 2004, 2005, and 2006 open water seasons.

Partial Data on Snow Fall for the 2015-2016 Winter Season – This past winter Bob Turnquist again provided data on snow fall on the website. The source of this information was a recording station approximately 8 miles west of Moon Lake. From January thru February that station recorded 44 inches of snow with a moisture content of 2.74 inches. Snow fall data for March and April will not be available on the website until early May.

2015 CLMP Monitoring Program – We have been provided with the data from the measuring and sampling that was done in 2015. This data was prepared in a report prepared specifically for each of lakes participating in the program. This is a new feature that was provided beginning with the 2014 report. Here is the report summary for Moon Lake: “With a TSI score of 32 based on Secchi transparency, chlorophylls-a, and summer total phosphorus, the lake is rated as an oligotrophic lake. Long term trends indicate that the trophic status parameters have not changed beyond minor-year-to-year variations since monitoring began in 1995. The average TSI for Moon Lake over the 2010-2014 time period is 35.”

A lake’s ability to support plant and animal life defines its level of productivity or trophic state. Lakes are commonly classified based on their biological productivity. The four categories are oligotrophic, mesotrophic, eutrophic, and hypereutrophic. Oligotrophic lakes such as Moon are generally deep and clear with little aquatic plant growth,

CLMP uses the TSI to describe the productivity of lakes enrolled in the program. TSI is a numerical index calculated from water quality data. Chlorophyll-a is the most direct trophic indicator. The TSI expresses lake productivity on a continuous numerical scale from 0 to 100 with increasing numbers indicating more eutrophic conditions. Michigan generally classifies a TSI less than 38 as oligotrophic, 38 to 48 as mesotrophic, 48-61 as eutrophic, and more than 61 as hypereutrophic. These dividing lines between trophic status categories are somewhat arbitrary since water quality is a continuum. (Source: 2013 CLMP Annual Summary Report.)

The average TSI of 35 for 2010-2014 is the reason why Moon Lake is rated by the CLMP as an oligotrophic lake. The TSI in 2015 of 32 indicates a positive trend in the water quality for Moon Lake

2016 Monitoring Program with CLMP – 2016 marks the 22nd year that Moon Lake has participated in this program. As in the past, we will measure water clarity from May thru September and sample for algal plant pigment chlorophyll-a 5 times during the summer and total phosphorus during spring and late summer. The spring sample for phosphorus will be taken within 2 weeks of ice out.

Measuring Dissolved Oxygen/Temperature in 2016 - This season we plan to undertake the measurement of dissolved oxygen and water temperature that we tried to do in 2015. Last year the ISCCW purchased an oxygen/temperature meter. This meter was to be made available to qualified volunteers in our local area for the measurement of dissolved oxygen and water temperature. It was planned that Moon Lake would have access to this meter. Establishing the protocol for how the meter was to be used and providing training took longer than was anticipated. We did not get underway with

this program in 2015. We expect that access to this meter will be easier in 2016 and additional training will be available

Here is what I had included on measuring oxygen and water temperature in last summer's article on Moon Lake Notes. Oxygen is one of the atmospheric gases present in lake water in dissolved form. The amount of dissolved oxygen in water is particularly important because creatures in aquatic environments need oxygen to power the life-sustaining respiration process. Different aquatic creatures require different amounts of dissolved oxygen. For example, trout need dissolved oxygen levels as high as 6-8 mg/L and smallmouth bass need levels between 5-6 mg/L.

The water temperature is measured along with dissolved oxygen because they are connected. Colder water has the potential to hold more oxygen than warmer water. However, colder water doesn't necessarily hold more oxygen. The density of water increases as temperature decreases, so cold water sinks to the bottom of a lake and is separated from the source of oxygen (the atmosphere). Warmer, less-dense water floats at the top of a lake where mixing with the atmosphere keeps the upper waters aerated. The difference in water density results in distinct layers of different temperatures and different dissolved oxygen in a lake. This is known as thermal stratification. (Source: Mi Corps Factsheet.)

The pattern of dissolved oxygen and temperatures reflect and influence lake productivity and affect lake physical/chemical properties, phosphorus cycling and fish and aquatic animal populations. Measurement of dissolved oxygen and temperature will provide additional information to assess the health of Moon Lake

Secchi Disk – The Secchi disk that we use to measure water clarity has been in use for 150 years. In 1865 Pietro Angelo Secchi, an Italian Jesuit priest, serving as an advisor to the Pope was asked to quantify water clarity in the Mediterranean Sea. He invented the 8 inch black and white disk that was dropped over the side of the papal yacht. This black and white disk is what we use today at Moon Lake to track water clarity but not from a papal yacht.

Secchi was a prolific scientist. He served as professor of astronomy at the Roman College in the Vatican. The majority of his 700 published works were in the field of astrophysics. In 1848 Secchi moved to the United States and joined Georgetown University in Washington, D. C. It was his friendship with Commander Matthew Maury who became the superintendent of the United States Naval Observatory that led Secchi to devote some of his attention to aquatic rather than astronomical matters. He standardized the procedure for water clarity measurements and published his results. Of course new technology exists that can provide more accurate water clarity readings but, since people have been using Secchi disks for 150 years, continuing the practice allows for the ability to track clarity trends over long period with a standardized measurement .

(Source: *Limnology News*, No.24, Fall 2015)

Watersmeet Township Emergency Services

Frank Kuchevar

Watersmeet Township has changed its emergency medical and ambulance service effective March 5, 2016. The new ambulance service will be provided by Aspirus MedEvac which is headquartered in Wausau, WI. Aspirus MedEvac provides both ground and air emergency transport and has service bases in Iron River, MI (Aspirus-Northstar Hospital), Ironwood, MI (Aspirus-Grand View Hospital) and Ontonagon, MI (Aspirus-Ontonagon Hospital) in the Upper Peninsula in addition to the Aspirus-Wausau Hospital and a few other Wisconsin sites. Watersmeet will be served primarily from the Iron River, MI base for the ambulance and emergency medical service on a 24hr/day, 7 day/week basis. Aspirus MedEvac offers a much higher level of service to Watersmeet citizens than the previous service did due to its staffing and their medical capabilities.

The emergency process will be similar to previous emergency medical/ambulance requests. The request must be initiated by dialing 911.

- The 911 dispatcher (located in Crystal Falls, MI for all of Gogebic County) will notify the Watersmeet located First Responder personnel-24/7.
- The first response to the emergency site will be the Watersmeet First Responders.
- The First Responders will assess the situation and notify the ambulance service, as required.
- The ambulance personnel upon arrival at the emergency site will then assess the criticality of the emergency and act accordingly. There will be Advanced Life Support (ALS) capability provided with each ambulance call. This means that each ambulance call will have one advanced Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) that is capable of applying intravenous requirements and one Paramedic that is capable of administering drug doses or applying other life support actions that an EMT or First Responder cannot do without proper certification. ALS capability was not provided by the prior service.
- The personnel at the emergency site then will then determine the next course of action, that is, where to transport the patient based on the criticality of the emergency.

The transport will be to the nearest hospital Emergency Room (ER) that is “most appropriate to service the specific medical condition”. This does not necessarily mean the nearest hospital to the emergency site. The key is “most appropriate to service the specific medical condition of the patient.

- In general, for non-life threatening conditions, transport will be to the nearest hospital. For south Watersmeet residents, that would be to Eagle River, WI hospital or the Aspirus Iron River, MI hospital depending on what the medical condition is.
- For more serious conditions such as a life threatening Cardiac condition, a call would be made to the Aspirus air transport from Wausau and the ambulance would then transport to the nearest landing site possible. Air then would transport to the Aspirus-Wausau Hospital for care.
- Or, for a serious orthopedic condition, the nearest “most appropriate service” would be Aspirus-Iron River.
- Or, for a serious pregnancy condition, the nearest “most appropriate service” would be Aspirus-Ironwood
- Transport to a hospital specifically requested by the patient, or patient’s spokesperson, must have a convincing medical premise. Otherwise, the request will not be honored if the hospital is not the one determined by the medical personnel.

Other items that might be of interest:

- Average Response time for the ambulance from Iron River to arrive at the US Highway 2-US Highway 45 intersection in Watersmeet is estimated to be 20-25 minutes. Recent actual times thus far has verified this response time. This is much quicker than what the previous service provided on average. Of course, additional time to the specific emergency site will be added depending on where the site is located in the township. This new service, however, will be more reliable to maintain average response time.
- The new ambulance service contract with Aspirus MedEvac is for a trial period of one year and is in partnership with the Lac Vieux Dessert tribe.
- Watersmeet First Responders have the ability to call upon the Land O’ Lakes, WI ambulance service if the need arises for a quicker response due to a very critical life situation. Land O’ Lakes has a mutual agreement with Aspirus MedEvac for this purpose. This call will occur only occasionally and not be a normal mode of operation.
- Aspirus-MedEvac will seek additional mutual assist agreements with other near area service providers in the near future for the possibility of servicing the far west Watersmeet Township residents.

It is hoped that the above information will clarify what the new ambulance service will provide and hopefully relieve some anxieties. It is important to remember that this area is a rural area not near a

metropolitan area that has many service capabilities. Distances are greater here for service providers. People have chosen to live in this area for many satisfying amenities that are not without risks. The risks, hopefully, can be minimized with cooperation and understanding and reliable service providers REMEMBER. DIAL 911 FOR YOUR MEDICAL EMERGENCY NEEDS! Do not call local phone numbers. Thank you.

Moon Lake Loon Activity

Tom Wheeler

The first loon arrived on April 18 this year. That was the day much of the ice went out of the north end of the lake. The next day the second loon was back so the resident pair has been here since April 19.

Today, April 26, Bob Turnquist and I placed the newly refurbished platform in the south bay with fresh roots from the Toumey Nursery in Watersmeet. In past years the loons have been on the nest shortly after new roots are placed so now it is up to them to do their job this summer.

Items of Interest

Tom Chase

Winnie Baeten: Our hearts go out to the Baeten family in the passing of Winnie on April 21st. Service/memorial arrangements will be published when available.

Celebrating Jim and Jean Reiels: You should have received an invitation to attend the reception/dinner being held on May 14th at the Gateway Lodge, 5:30pm in their honor. We will be celebrating 45 years of happiness and friendship with Jean and Jim. The cost is \$22.00 per person which includes tax and tip as well as flowers and the Reiel's dinner. Please make your checks payable to Prudy Caudill at P. O. Box 416, Land O'Lakes, WI 54540 by May 6th. Hope to see you there.

Frank Kuchevar has reported that "ICE OUT" was declared on April 21ST. Now we need some rain to clean up a bit.

Stan and Linda Kallaak: Our lake neighbors have sold their home. The closing will be on May 9th and they are having an auction on May 7 for their remaining "stuff". Stan and Linda will be located at the Borderline campground by the Wisconsin river for the summer.

Watersmeet Clean Up: The town is having a "Clean-Up Day" for your personal trash on June 11th. You must get a ticket at the Town office prior to that date which will be collected at the transfer station gate to be allowed in. Each taxpayer household will be allowed only one dump which could be a pickup truck load plus a utility trailer at the same time. No hazardous materials, including paint cans. Only 10 tires per dump will be free. Additional fees will be charged.

Summer Activities: Please check out the Land O'Lakes Chamber web site for all the summer activities including the Summer Launch celebration being held on Saturday May 28th. The Chamber building has a variety of printed information you and your company will enjoy to read and explore.

Dues: The Association dues are \$20.00 per year per household. Please submit them to Sheila McConaghy (PO Box 893). A current Association directory was attached to your newsletter notification.

HELP! We are looking for someone to take Tom Wheeler's position as MLRA's "Loon Ranger". Tom is willing to pass on his experiences, job duties and train you. Much of the loon activities are passed on by our local members. If you are willing to take on the responsibility of this job, please contact Tom or any of the officers. Thank you.

Observations

Tom Chase

As the final bits of snow have melted, and the Spring rains are upon us, our Loons are welcomed sound to enjoy. During your walks down/up Moon Lake Roads, please take along a plastic bag and retrieve any unsightly trash that may be an eye-sore to our home environment.

1. Please utilize our website! Contributions are always welcome!
2. If you know of any MLRA member that you believe would like to be remembered (for any reason), please contact Judy Chase (tnjchase@alphacomm.net), and she will send out a card on behalf of the Lake Association.
3. Remember, this is your newsletter. Any article contributions you would like to share, please forward to me or any board member, and we will get them published.
4. Any website contributions can be addressed to Bob Turnquist via: www.moonlake.org

We appreciate the response from our members. Please feel free to make suggestions whenever you like and send them to your MLRA board members.

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