

Freshwater Summit

October 28, 2011

Flip Chart Notes: Inland Lakes Issues, Threats and Strategies

About 20 people representing the following 10 lake associations exchanged information about the following threats to their lakes and the strategies being employed to address these issues.

Since there was a breakout session was part of the 2011 Freshwater Summit, many of these representatives expressed disappointment in this year's Summit because it appeared to focus exclusively on Great Lakes issues, at the expense of a balance between Great Lakes issues and inland lake issues. Perhaps this is the result of the recent infusion of federal funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiatives, and the agenda for the Summit being developed by the Freshwater Roundtable. (Editor's note: Dean Branson, who orchestrated the Inland Lakes sessions, was asked to present about Eurasian milfoil and declined; also, Peg Comfort of White Pine Associates was approached to present about loon banding in the Chain of Lakes; she and another expert were unavailable.)

The inland lake representatives wonder if inland-lake issues are really lower priority compared to Great Lakes issues when it comes to allocating government resources. We wonder if an economic case could be made for a share of the Pure Michigan-related state revenue based on the tourism dollars spent in areas associated with inland lakes. Is it time for northern Michigan inland lake associations to consolidate their efforts to proactively search for resources to help address our high-priority common issues ?

Crystal Lake

- ✓ Invasive species.
- ✓ Swimmers itch.
- ✓ Boat launch issues, such as boat washing to proactively address invasive species. Cited Glenn Lake Association's PowerPoint presentation on heated water boat washing (on MiCorp's web site) as appreciated leadership.

Walloon Lake

- ✓ Shoreline greenbelt survey in progress. Advocating shoreline protection ordinances in five townships.
- ✓ Septic system ordinances, evaluations at the time of title transfers.
- ✓ Addressing swimmers itch and no wake zone buoys near boat launch.
- ✓ Cottage rental issue; upgrading Marine Manners on web site.
- ✓ Boat mooring on a sand bar, civil trespass, big concern is rudeness.

Torch Lake, Clam Lake, and Lake Bellaire

- ✓ E. milfoil, diver-assisted suction removal of whole plants, unknown effectiveness, \$500 DEQ permit, alternative management strategies.
- ✓ Sand bar issue: additional enforcement appears to be helping, tracking tickets, community and sheriff's buy in were keys to success.
- ✓ Sediment loading from Grass River tributaries, part of Chain of Lakes agenda.
- ✓ Ongoing E. coli monitoring program, 23 tributaries and three beaches.
- ✓ Support for local school's environmental science curriculums.
- ✓ Courteous behavior of renters on riparian property.

Higgins Lake

- ✓ 78 road ends on lake, legislation (SB 778), committee hearing 11-1-11.
- ✓ Advocating for greater representation of northern Michigan inland lakes in Lansing; an effective alliance through relationship building, targeting issues.
- ✓ E. milfoil management: purchased suction equipment \$50,000 (diver-assisted, hand digging and suction removal of whole plants).
- ✓ Opportunity: resources to proactively address invasive species issues from a boat license fee?

Elk-Skegemog Lakes

- ✓ Commercial renting of homes on lakes.
- ✓ Sediment loading from Rapid River, part of Chain of Lakes agenda.
- ✓ Navigation markers, Maine's liability precedent.
- ✓ Invasive species threats, especially quagga mussels.
- ✓ Septic system evaluation, proposed ordinance.

Clam Lake

- ✓ Fish shelters project (increasing habitat in five lakes in the Chain of Lakes).
- ✓ Wetland filling for a marina. Question: Is there new DEQ pilot program to address permitting of wetland filling?

Lake Leelanau

- ✓ Development in narrows finally resolved
 - Land Conservancy's easement
 - Wetland consultant, valuable assistance
- ✓ Initiated participation in Cooperative Lake Monitoring program, and zebra mussel monitoring program.
- ✓ Heads Up: FEMA's new floodplain map may affect some riparians.

Glen Lake

- ✓ Preventing invasive species through a comprehensive boat washing program: concerns include quagga and zebra mussels, Eurasian milfoil and fish virus
 - Now washing boats with hot water; ~\$27,000 per year
 - Townships adopted boat washing ordinance
- ✓ Investigating use of a recently approved agent to control zebra mussels.
- ✓ Townships adopted a zero-phosphorus ordinance (fertilizers near lake).
- ✓ Conducting a shoreline greenbelt survey.
- ✓ Monitoring a stream for sources of E. coli.

Six Mile Lake

- ✓ Biggest issue: controlling E. milfoil
 - Fundraising, \$17,000 per year for weevils! Effectiveness?
 - Pursuing a Special Assessment District
- ✓ Alternative E. milfoil control measures discussed
 - Benthic barriers
 - Diver-assisted, hand digging and suction removal: DEQ's permit fee!
 - Herbicides