



Partner Updates: March 2021

MILP Reminders

1. All 2020 Convention session recordings can be found at <http://bit.ly/milc2020>.
2. We are hosting a continually updated list of webinars and online conferences related to lakes. You can find them [here](#); an easy-access button appears on our MILP home page too.

MUCC – Ian FitzGerald

I know we have been less than present at recent meetings but I did want the MILP members to know that the issue of wake boats is still heavily on the mind of MUCC. We are eager to see the results of a study being done in Minnesota on wake boats to help bolster a policy resolution that will likely be presented to our members.

MSU Institute of Water Research (IWR) – Lois Wolfson

We just finished the annual Great Lakes Conference, March 9. We had 220 people attend the online conference. The three themes were food webs, invasive species, and fisheries, particularly whitefish and cisco. All talks were recorded, and we're planning to post them (bit.ly/GreatLakes2021) as well as the power point presentations within the next week or so.

Currently, we're developing a white paper on Michigan Groundwater by reviewing trends, risks, and opportunities for improved water management. The purpose of this report is to highlight the value of groundwater for Michigan and the Great Lakes region, explore current trends and status of groundwater conditions, and outline opportunities to improve water management in the region.

IWR continues to collect runoff from tile drains in multiple areas within the Lake Erie drainage basin, and is working with farmers on BMPs for reducing runoff.

DNR – Christina Baugher

The Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program released its award announcements for the 2020 cycle. [Here is a list of projects](#) which received funding. Several projects will be relevant to inland lakes, including: a new mobile boat wash program in the northern lower peninsula (led by Tip of the Mitt); a high school engagement project that will guide students to initiate stewardship

projects in their communities; comprehensive U.P.-wide European frog-bit survey and management; and continued support of CISMAs statewide.

Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership – Joe Nohner

- The Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership is holding a series of free webinars for lake professionals, researchers, and stakeholders. Learn more and sign up at midwestglaciallakes.org/resources/webinars. The next webinars in the series will be part of a joint conference held with the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership focusing on shoreline erosion, using social science to promote natural shorelines, and wakeboats.
- The Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership will potentially be announcing its request for proposals to its Lake Conservation Grant this April with a May deadline for submission. Those interested should sign up for the partnership's newsletter to be notified and email Joe Nohner (nohnerj@michigan.gov) for more information.
- Over 25,000 copies of the [Shoreline Living](#) booklet have been printed and are now available for distribution in Michigan. The publication promotes natural shorelines to property owners that may not be familiar with them; if you would like copies for outreach in Michigan reach out to Joe Nohner.

Michigan Lakes and Streams Association – Melissa DeSimone

Michigan Lakes and Streams Association is expecting the next edition of *The Michigan Riparian* magazine to start hitting mailboxes by early April. If you are interested in submitting articles for the magazine, the deadlines are May 1 for Summer, August 1 for Fall, November 1 for Winter, and February 1 for Spring. If you have information you would like us to share in our newsletter or on social media, you can send those items to Melissa at any time: melissa.desimone@mymlsa.org. We are looking forward to our 60th Annual Conference on Friday, April 30th which will be preceded by the training day for MiCorps CLMP volunteers on Thursday, April 29th. Visit mymlsa.org to register for the conference and micorps.net to register for CLMP training.

Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society (McNALMS) – Lois Wolfson

The McNALMS and MLSA Student Grants Program received seven research proposals from six different Universities. Recipients will be announced in early April. Overall, \$4000 is available to give out.

McNALMS is interested in having more funding allocated to inland lakes protection. A committee is looking into gas tax distribution and want to have discussions about reestablishing section 314 of the Clean Water Act to provide funding for a Clean Lakes program.

EGLE Nonpoint Source Program – Julia Kirkwood

Water Resources Division received \$600,000 from the legislature and the NPS Program was elected to managed this funding. Funding was to put out a request for proposals for grants for

watershed council/organization support. Maximum request was \$40,000. We received 68 proposals – many requesting \$40,000 - and are currently in the review process. Some lake associations focusing on a variety of actions and many aquatic invasive species related projects. Should be announcing in the next month or so. We don't know if we will get this money again next year or if it is a one-time thing. The funding doesn't have any watershed plan limitations so the funding opportunity is nice to for groups to try to fund certain activities to help get efforts started, do pre-design work for best management practices, do outreach, some targeted monitoring efforts.

We are still also planning on putting out a watershed planning RFP as well.

Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership – Julia Kirkwood

Shoreline and Shallows Conference March 24th

Hoping to still be able to hold the Advanced Contractor Training class in East Jordan in August. Tip of the Mitt has a grant to bio-engineer a shoreline on Lake Charlevoix. Max will be 25 participants. Won't provide certification for contractors but will provide training and installation of a high energy site properly using rock.

Working on CNSP Training and manual information Update and transitioning Homeowner Workshop to an online format.

Michigan Townships Association – Tom Frazier

MTA has continued to be engaged with the DNR on updating the DNR's Managed Public Land Strategy. We recently met with staff to provide verbal feedback on the latest draft and have kept our members up to date and provided avenues for them to engage as well. In addition, we have been following HB 4035, introduced by Rep. Scott VanSingel (R-Grant Twp.), which is this session's version to prioritize the payments of special assessments for lake level controls that often times are not paid by the DNR due to sporadic appropriations from the Legislature. The bill would make those payments as part of the payments-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILT payments) that are made to counties and townships annually on state owed land. The bill was reported out of the House Natural Resources & Outdoor Recreation Committee this past week. Finally, we are following the DNR and EGLE budget recommendations that impact water bodies and serve on the Water Users Advisory Council, which provided written recommendations to the Legislature in late December focused around increased data collection, modeling, conservation, and education concerning water withdrawals and use.

MSU Extension – Jo Latimore

- 275 people enrolled in our [Introduction to Lakes Online Course](#). This is the highest-ever participation in this six-week course, which wrapped up last week.
- MiCorps CLMP opened a pre-enrollment for Spring Total Phosphorus monitoring last week as we continue to finalize a new and improved enrollment and payment system through MSU. Pre-enrollment will allow us to distribute sampling kits to volunteers in

time for sampling within a few weeks of ice-out. CLMP training is April 29 online and is open to all. [Register](#) to get the link. We will also be giving an [“All About MiCorps” webinar](#) hosted by MLSA on March 25.

- We recently released a series of [“Smart Gardening for Shorelands”](#) fact sheets on the following topics:
 - Smart Stormwater Solutions for Protecting Your Waterfront, by Bindu Bhakta
 - Soak Up the Rain with a Rain Garden, by Paige Filice
 - Keep it Clean to Protect Frogs and Toads, by Paige Filice and Erick Elgin
 - Smart Waterfront Plants to Enhance your Shoreline, by Erick Elgin
 - Smart Lake Gardening: Planning Your Nearshore Garden, by Erick Elgin
- The [Michigan Lake and Stream Leaders Institute](#) is hosting an interactive workshop on Effective Communications for Lake and Stream Conservation on June 8, 1-4 pm. This workshop will feature guest experts from Michigan State University’s Department of Community Sustainability and Grass River Natural Area. The workshop is free and all are welcome. Registration will be announced soon.
- We are repeating our search for a new [Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention educator](#). This is a new position in MSUE that will add to our capacity to offer programs like Clean Boats, Clean Waters. This is the position that was advertised last spring but not filled due to the pandemic. A master’s degree is required and the position closes March 31.
- Our [Conservation Stewards Program](#) is being planned for Fall 2021. There will be both an online course with a statewide perspective and a local component in 4-5 different areas in Michigan. Topics include Conservation Heritage, Ecological Foundations, Terrestrial Ecosystems (Forests and Grasslands), Aquatic Ecosystems (Lakes, Streams, and Wetlands), and Conservation Planning.

Muskegon River Watershed Assembly – Mary Hansen

Good news! The Michigan Invasive Species Grant program funding has been restored so the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly (MRWA) can continue their collaboration with the North Country Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (NCCISMA) to fulfill obligations of a grant awarded to NCCISMA. The Muskegon River Watershed Project covers the northern region of the watershed. The purpose of this grant is to educate lake boards/associations and riparians on lake health and encourage them to participate in the Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch (EAPW) program. The MRWA has produced an e-newsletter (The Lake Champion) highlighting lake health and how readers can get involved with the EAPW program. The e-newsletter was sent to over 100 email addresses of those with possible interest in the program. Staff from MRWA, along with NCCISMA staff, have been presenting EAPW program information at township board meetings to get the word out. Phone calls and emails have been made to riparians to inform them of the program and the importance of lake health and how they can help.

The MRWA has secured funding through the US Forest Service to launch a pilot program to install one boat wash station at a boat launch in the watershed. The station will include signage highlighting the Clean, Drain, Dry program and invasive species education. Educational outreach days will be held at the station. The purpose of this project is to measure the usage by boaters, get their thoughts on boat wash stations, and education and outreach. A successful project will most likely lead to the MRWA applying for additional funding for future stations.

The MRWA is working in collaboration with the Newaygo Conservation Collaborative to construct boot brush stations at all trailheads of the Dragon Trail. Each station will include educational signage explaining why it is important to clean your boots and highlight a few invasive plants. Plans are in the works to collect boot scrapings for a weekend, sort the seeds and grow them to see what could potentially be entering the trail.

Even in times of a pandemic, the MRWA is getting things done! It's going to be a busy summer with many fun projects ahead. The MRWA hopes to see many of you at events and out on the water!

EGLE – Inland Lake Monitoring/Assessment Update – Sarah Holden

WRD is increasing our monitoring and assessment efforts related to **nutrient enriched lakes**. Last year, we listed 8 lakes as not meeting WQS due to excessive plant and algae growth due to nutrient concentrations in the 2020 Integrated Report. We will list additional lakes in the 2022 report. We have ongoing monitoring planned on approximately 12 lakes this summer to assess trophic state and algae and macrophyte conditions and expect this to be part of our routine lake monitoring moving forward. There is updated listing methodology included in the draft assessment methodology found on this document (https://www.michigan.gov/documents/egle/egle-swas-2022IR-draftAM_716196_7.pdf Sections: 3.6.1.2 Water Column Nutrient Concentrations, 3.6.2.2 Bacteria, Algae, Macrophytes, and Fungi).

WRD also updated our assessment methodology related to assessing the **dissolved oxygen standard in coldwater lakes** (page 6 of the above document; 3.5.1.1 Dissolved Oxygen Concentration). We are working with DNR Fisheries Division and through our targeted monitoring process to identify lakes that may not meet support the coldwater fishery designated use due to low dissolved oxygen concentrations in the hypolimnion. We are also exploring using MiCorps data to assess this dissolved oxygen standard for the 2022 Integrate Report.

WRD is continuing to conduct response monitoring for **harmful algal blooms**. Complaints including a description and pictures can be sent to algaebloom@michigan.gov. We hope to have a mapper online this summer to show reports and lab results for cyanotoxins. A link is not available yet, but look to www.michigan.gov/habs for additional information on the mapper or other information on algal blooms that may be harmful (including FAQs and a picture guide on algal blooms).

WRD is planning to participate in the **2022 National Lakes Assessment** survey at a statewide level (50 lakes will be monitored). We are also collaborating with WI, MN, and USFS to collect water chemistry from a total of 250 lakes in the Northern Lakes and Forest ecoregion. The goal of the project is to generate a broader understanding of the high quality lakes that exist in this region, which includes all of the UP and the upper half of the LP. Additional information on NLA methodology and lakes selected will be available later in 2021.