

# LAKE GOGEBIC IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

"SPEAKING WITH ONE VOICE  
"FOR THE WELFARE OF THE ENTIRE LAKE"

Editor of LGIA Newsletter—Phil Wirtanen

Publisher—Jim O'Neill

## From The President's Desk



June 2018  
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Summer seems to be upon us with days in the 70s and fishing season is in full swing. Another sure sign of summer is the reconvening of your LGIA Board meetings. Our meetings are held every month between May and October and that time seems to move faster every year. We have relatively little time to get a lot of things done.

Just a few weeks ago, on behalf of the LGIA, I attended the annual conference of the Michigan Lakes & Streams Association. This is the second time I've been there in the last four years. It was a very good gathering again but it was interesting to note how things have changed a bit in emphasis over those years. Four years ago it seemed the main concerns were focused on legal and jurisdictional issues such as zoning and building codes. While then there were a few agenda items related to environmental issues the tables have now turned. This year most all primary concerns dealt with things like; invasive species, shoreline erosion, pollutants, weed control, water quality, etc.

As I've mentioned in the past Lake Gogebic is a considerably different lake than the great share of the ML&SA member's lakes. They have a lot of concerns different than ours but we all share the common goal of the well being of our respective lakes. That is the reason for being of the LGIA. As we begin our new year of activity our goal will be to seek ways to strengthen our Association. One obvious way to do that is to increase our membership numbers. Another is to find ways to involve greater numbers of our current membership in our projects and activities. We become stronger as we contribute to the lake's well being by doing work to help it. One of the toughest things we do is to identify meaningful projects to get involved in to provide that help.

Early this year, we submitted a grant request to the Bond Falls Implementation Team for consideration. We turned to our good friends at Whitewater Associates of Amasa to submit a request for funding of a shoreline preservation project. There is a program called "Score the Shore" that is already available but we felt the size of our lake was such that we needed assistance to do the whole lake. The BFIT felt we could do it without third party help. So that might mean that we will be looking for volunteers to provide boats and time to assist if we take on such a project. Stay tuned for future information.

We look forward to the months of summer and fall. I ask all of you to help to energize the LGIA and add to our member numbers. Ask the simple question of your neighbors and friends, "do you belong to the LGIA?" If the answer is no then your response has to be "why not?" They might say something about "what has the LGIA ever done for me?" That is your chance to say "sit down and have a cup of coffee, this may take a while." Then tell our story. If you don't feel comfortable about your own level of knowledge reference our newsletters, visit the website, check us out on Facebook or talk to any Board member. This is your association. Help it to grow.

LAKE GOGEBIC IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
May 24, 2018  
MINUTES

President Phil Wirtanen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. CDT at the Bergland Fire Hall.

**Attendance:** (Board Members): Phil Wirtanen, Chris Wirtanen, Ken Carlson, Jim O'Neill, , Kathy Lowery, Mark Brown, Mark Gregory, Mike Burt, Jack Kurtz (and guest)

**Absent:** Mark DeGrave, Carol D'Alberto, Donna Blasius, Ralph Wirtanen, Steve Salmi, Glenn Korpi, Jim Vigness

The agenda was distributed by Phil Wirtanen. A motion to adopt the agenda was made, seconded and approved.

Minutes from the September, 2017 Board Meeting, previously distributed via email were approved.

**Treasurer Report:** Donna Blasius has resigned as Treasurer. The report was presented by Phil Wirtanen. At December 31, 2017, the regular account balance was \$4,208.35; the special account balance was \$480.82, and; the CD balance was \$7,809.71. As of May 24, 2018 the balance in the regular account is \$5,311.79. The special account and CD are unchanged from year end. A motion to accept the report was made, seconded and approved.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Membership:** No report.

**Fish Cribs:** A volunteer(s) is (are) being sought to take over this project. The Koivus have agreed to build the cribs. Ryan Koivu will visit with Kent McDonough to see the construction. Mike Burt will coordinate.

**Lake Level and CLMP:** Mark Gregory reported that no level information is available yet, although the lake appears to be somewhat below normal level for this time of year. Mark and Kent will continue to do the sampling and clarity readings this year. The results of the sampling from 2017 are in and will be discussed in the forthcoming newsletter.

**Social Committee:** No report. The pavilion at the park has been reserved for the third Sunday of July (the 15<sup>th</sup>). There was a general consensus that the fall party should take place again this year.

**WEPIc:** Nothing to report.

**Special Projects:** Phil Wirtanen reported that the loosestrife project has been approved by UPPCO again for this summer. Grants for this project have provided the Association with about \$15K of revenues over the past several years. There was a discussion regarding Jack Kurtz's loon nest project. The nests launched last fall are still floating although no birds have been seen on them yet. This may take a couple of years to develop. A motion was made and passed for Jack to build two more nests to be positioned near the railroad bridge in the West Branch.

**Boat Washing:** Kathy Lowery reported that the volunteers from last season have agreed to do the work again this year in all three locations. Kathy has had a promotional first aid kit made to hand out to clients as part of the education program. She has been in contact with the producer/host of Channel 6's "Discovering" who has agreed to do a segment on the invasive species prevention work (boat washing, education, etc.) She will try to get the coverage expanded to discuss all aspects of the LGIA.

**Adopt A Highway:** No Report.

**WUPCAC:** Phil Wirtanen – Information on the last meeting will be covered in the forthcoming newsletter.

**Old Business:**

**Website progress:** Kathy Lowery will follow up on the contacts identified by Steve Salmi and Glenn Korpi during the September 2017 meeting.

**Newsletter:** Articles for the May-June newsletter were solicited. My goal is to have it done and distributed by June 11.

**Membership:** There was a general discussion regarding how to recruit new members. Mark Brown suggested that a contact information attachment (sticker, decal, etc) be made for our existing media handouts. Kathy will look into getting an info booth for the Bergland Bay Bar street fair. All agreed that membership pamphlets should be made available at all of the restaurants, resorts, etc. on the Lake and even as far from the Lake as the Konteka. We also discussed how to avoid the stigma of having the function of an HOA.

**New Business:**

**Future activities:** Possible participation in the "Score the Shore" program, designed to encourage property owners to maintain a natural shoreline. The issue of doing this while avoiding the HOA stigma as discussed above, followed.

**CLMP Funding:** Phil reported that funding for this program will be depleted in September of this year. We all need to try to bring pressure upon our elected representatives to get the legislature to continue funding.

**Fisheries:** The large lake survey has been completed but the meeting to discuss the findings was not very informative. There was a conclusion that the adult walleye population is down to some extent. A summary to be included in the newsletter has been requested. Other issues discussed included a return to the 15" standard for all walleye caught, northern incursion and limiting the perch season to coincide with the walleye season.

The next meeting will be on June 21, 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m., CDT

Respectfully submitted by

Jim O'Neill, Secretary

**Treasurer's Report:** As noted in the Minutes, there is no formal treasurer's report at this time. The Association is seeking a person to take on this responsibility. Please refer to the Minutes above for current balances.

### Boat Washing

Kathy Lowery bought small first aid kits that will be presented to boaters this summer on the landings. She said the staff in continuing this year, consisting of Stan and Pat Wontor, Carol VanDonsel, Nancy Miskovich and Gene Kauranen. We will be participating in the Landing Blitz this year that is being led by the state. It will take place the first week of July. We are also hoping to have a segment on Discovering during the first week of July.

### NUMBERS TO KNOW

BERGLAND TOWNSHIP OFFICE

(906) 575-3522

MARENISCO TOWNSHIP OFFICE

(906) 787-2463

MARENISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT

(906) 787-2300

LAKE GOGEBIC FIRE DEPARTMENT

(906) 842-3555

## COOPERATIVE LAKES MONITORING PRGRAM (CLMP)

MARK GREGORY

For several years now the LGIA has been a part of the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP). This program is a partnership effort between the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association(MLSA), the Great Lakes Commission, Michigan State University the Huron River Watershed Council and almost 300 volunteer organizations like the LGIA who volunteer to monitor their respective lakes. The website can be found at [www.micorps.net](http://www.micorps.net)

Following are some key points taken from the CLMP Manual:

A lake's condition or health is influenced by many factors, such as the amount of recreational use it receives, shoreline development, and water quality. Lake water quality is a general term covering many aspects of chemistry and biology. The health of a lake is determined by its water quality. 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 productivity from **Oligotrophic** to **Eutrophic**. Low productive **oligotrophic** lakes are generally deep and clear with little aquatic plant growth. These lakes maintain sufficient dissolved oxygen in the cool, deep-bottom waters during late summer to support coldwater fish, such as trout and whitefish.

By contrast, high productive **eutrophic** lakes are generally shallow, turbid, and support abundant aquatic plant growth. Warmwater fish, such as sunfish, bass, bullheads, and carp are more typical of a eutrophic lake.

Lakes that fall between these two classifications are called **Mesotrophic** lakes. **Lake Gogebic** falls within this category.

Lake eutrophication is a natural process resulting from the gradual accumulation of nutrients, increased productivity, and a slow filling in of the lake basin with accumulated sediments, silt, and muck. Human activities can greatly speed up this process by dramatically increasing nutrient, soil, or organic matter input to the lake. Plant nutrients are a major factor that cause increased productivity in lakes. The CLMP is designed specifically to monitor changes in lake productivity via parameters such as water clarity, spring and fall total phosphorus, the algal plant pigment chlorophyll a and dissolved oxygen throughout the summer months. For Lake Gogebic we are currently taking Spring and Fall water samples for phosphorus and taking Secchi disk readings weekly between these two water sample times.

**Nutrients** are the leading cause of lake eutrophication. Nitrogen and phosphorus both stimulate plant growth. Both are measured from samples of water and reported in units of  $\mu\text{g/l}$  (micrograms per liter), or ppb (parts per billion). Phosphorus is the most important nutrient affecting lake productivity in Michigan, and is often used directly as a measure of eutrophication.

**Transparency**, or the clarity of water, is measured using a device known as a Secchi disk. This is an eight inch diameter target painted black and white in alternate quadrants. The disk is attached to a marked line, or measuring tape, and lowered from a boat into the lake. The distance into the water column the disk can be seen is the transparency, measured in feet or meters. A short distance of visibility means that there are suspended particles or algae cells in the water, an indication of nutrient enrichment.

**CLMP (CONT'D)**

**Plants** are the primary users of nutrients. Chlorophyll a is a component of the cells of most plants, and can be used to measure the concentration of small plants in the water, such as algae. Chlorophyll a is measured from samples of water and reported in units of µg/l.

**Dissolved Oxygen (DO)** which is oxygen dissolved in the water, is necessary to sustain fish populations. Fish, such as trout, require more DO than warmwater species. Under the Lake monitoring program tab you can find all the CLMP supporting documents and a tab with individual lake reports. Within this tab under Gogebic County you will find the annual reports for our two monitoring sites, Gogebic North and Gogebic South. The CLMP Manual provides a detailed analysis of important lake parameters and more importantly some guidelines you as a lake owner can take to help protect Lake Gogebic. There are three key things you as a lake owner can do to help protect our lake:

- If you do fertilize your lawn **don't use products that contain Phosphorus**;
- If at all possible **don't mow right up to the water's edge**. plants provide a natural filter for water runoff to the lake
- Take care to **maintain your septic system**. Poor or failing septic systems can release significant amounts of harmful nutrients into the water table and/or directly into the lake

**THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT YOUR LGIA**

LGIA has been represented at numerous local meetings with the DNR in regards to the walleye and perch populations in Lake Gogebic, resulting in, among other things:

- ❖ Reducing the number of perch taken each day from 50 to 25;
- ❖ Changing the size limit of walleye to allow for at least two of each catch to be 13";
- ❖ Influencing the DNR to do a complete and thorough study of the Lake Gogebic fishery. This study was performed this spring (2017), the results of which are to be published in the near future.

We are still working on trying to obtain consideration for a change that would result in mirroring the walleye and perch seasons in the hope that this would result in the growth of the perch minnow population, the walleye's primary food source.

Our involvement in preventing the incursion of invasive species has been well documented and discussed.

So, if you are asked by a potential new member, or anyone for that matter, "what does the LGIA do for me?", here, in part, is the response.

## WUP-CAC REPORT

PHIL WIRTANEN

At the joint meeting of the CAC's held in Marquette this March a celebration was held to recognize the 10th anniversary of the councils. The LGIA was a charter member of the Western UP Citizens Advisory Council and we've maintained our presence ever since. There is little question that being a part of this group has been good for Lake Gogebic. The connections that we have developed within Michigan state government and, particularly, within the DNR have helped considerably.

The concept of the Council is that it assists the DNR to be more effective and efficient in dealing with regional natural resource issues. It is an advisory body and while having no authority can wield considerable influence. We bring the citizens perspective to bear on matters we place on the agenda for each bi-monthly meeting.

Though not in the Ontonagon River watershed, Oman's Creek in Gogebic County is a case in point. If you grew up in Ironwood, as I did, you always knew of Oman's. Though it was a popular access point for Lake Superior fishermen it was always cursed with its unique nature. The interesting thing about the creek was that if you were out fishing and a heavy wind came up from the north or northeast you had better race back in because gravel might close the mouth. So for many years the DNR, who owns the property on the east side of the creek, maintained a dredging operation to try to keep access to the lake possible. Over many years much discussion has taken place to consider finding a more permanent solution.

Finally, we have confidence that the DNR is committed to providing an answer to this historical problem. At the WUP-CAC meeting held in Ironwood on May 17 Doug Rich, Western UP Parks and Recreation Supervisor of the DNR, made a presentation outlining the two-phased project that will be undertaken. The first phase will restore the width and configuration of the creek mouth previous to the storm and floods of 2016. The second phase will entail building a groin (breakwater) far enough out into Lake Superior to prevent littoral drift of gravel from closing the mouth.

The initial phase is to be completed by the end of June which is important since both other local Lake Superior access sites, Saxon Harbor and Black River Harbor, will be closed this summer. Oman's is the only other access on that shoreline until you get to the Porkies.

Many parties over the years have worked on this issue but the WUP-CAC has been a coordinating force over the last few years as well as keeping the issue in front of the public at many of its recent meetings.

We meet bi-monthly with our next meeting being in Houghton at Michigan Tech in mid July. After that we will meet in Ontonagon in conjunction with a meeting of the NRC in September. At that gathering I understand there will be a special recognition of our own LGIA member and former NRC Chairman, John Matonich, for his years of service on the Natural Resource Commission . These are all public meetings so you are all welcome to attend. Check the DNR website for specific times and locations.

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The By-Laws of the Association provide that the annual meeting of the members shall be held in conjunction with the annual picnic and that notice of the meeting be provided in writing not less than ten days prior to the meeting. The purpose of the Annual Meeting shall be the **election of the Board of Directors** and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting. This year the meeting will be held on **Sunday, July 15** at 1:pm CDT at Gogebic County Park in conjunction with our annual picnic. This article shall constitute the notice to all members as provided for in the By-Laws. One-third of the outstanding members of the Association entitled to vote, represented in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum at this meeting. **If you are not going to attend this meeting, please fill out and return the proxy form provided below.** You may designate as your proxy any member that you know will be attending the meeting/picnic or you may designate any Director either by name or by title, i.e. President, Vice President, Treasurer or Secretary. **Alternatively, if you wish a Director to exercise your proxy, you need not fill out and return the form. Any proxy not returned shall be deemed to be given to the President to exercise.**

## PROXY

I, \_\_\_\_\_ residing at \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby constitute and appoint \_\_\_\_\_ as my proxy to attend the annual meeting of the general membership of the Lake Gogebic Improvement Association to be held on July 15, 2018, or any continuation or adjournment thereof, with full power to vote and act for me and in my name, place and stead, in the same manner, to the same extent and with the same effect that I might were I personally present thereat, giving to said \_\_\_\_\_ (Designated Proxy) full power of substitution and revocation, and I hereby revoke any other proxy heretofore given by me.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2018

[Signature]



### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**JULY 15, 2018 – GOGEBIC COUNTY PARK  
1 P.M. CDT**

**FOOD, FRIENDS, DOOR PRIZES, 50/50 AND LAKE GOGEBIC IMPROVEMENT  
ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC**

## **WHAT IS A NATURAL SHORELINE**

(ML&SA APRIL NEWSLETTER)

Did you know that many of the things that you love about lake front living depend on natural vegetation? A healthy (natural) shoreline must have a variety trees, shrubs and plants. These plants are doing "work" by supporting a large variety of fish and wildlife. They provide needed habitat for feeding, staying safe and raising their young. This natural vegetation provides habitat for fish and wildlife that use the lake edge but also helps the lake in many other ways too: (1) Helps keep the lake clean by slowing and filtering runoff as it moves towards the lake. (2) Allows more water to be absorbed into the ground than runoff. (3) Provides needed shade for keeping the water cooler. (4) Protects lake edge from wave and ice erosion when there is a good mixture of native Plants both on the land and in the water.

### ***Keep the Plants! They aren't "just weeds"!***

Healthy fish, abundant wildlife, and clear, clean water all depend on the individual decisions that we make about our lakefront properties. In many situations when humans come along many plants instantly become weeds especially the plants in the near shore area in the lake (littoral zone). When lakeshore lots are developed native trees, shrubs and plants are typically replaced by lawns and the plants are also removed from in the lake. Once the vegetation is gone the fish and wildlife are gone too! They can't just "go someplace else". Each bird, frog, butterfly, fish, turtle etc have different requirements for what they need for food, for nesting and raising young and staying safe.

The definition of a "weed" is a plant considered undesirable in a particular situation. Or a plant that is deemed in the wrong place based on a human perspective. Native plants along lake shores are in the right place from nature's perspective. If you look at a lake that has little to no development the shoreline will typically have three (3) tiers of vegetation:

1. Trees (canopy)
2. Shrubs
3. Plants (in the lake and on the land).

In addition the vegetation is also replaced by impervious (hard) surfaces such as driveways, rooftops and parking areas. These high impact types of development decrease the amount of water that can soak into the ground and creates more storm water runoff that carries pollutants to lakes. If they are fertilized, heavy rains carry nutrients directly into the lake. The cumulative effect of many lawns along a lake shore will adversely affect water quality, fish, wildlife and aesthetics.

### **What do we have to lose?**

Inland lakes support a high number of different kinds of fish and wildlife both on the land and in the water. The near-shore (littoral zone) areas of inland lakes are some of the most diverse areas. When these plants are removed from in the water and replaced with lawn on the land Michigan stands to lose a lot.

**You've probably heard these before, but.....**

A man was stopped by a game-warden at the Bergland boat launch recently with two buckets of fish leaving Lake Gogebic.

The game warden asked the man, "Do you have a license to catch those fish?" The man replied to the game warden, "No, sir. These are my pet fish." "Pet fish?!" the warden replied. "Yes sir. Every night I take these here fish down to the lake and let them swim around for a while. I whistle and they jump back into their buckets, and I take 'em home." "That's a bunch of crap! Fish can't do that!" replied the warden in disbelief.

The man looked at the game warden for a moment and then said, "Here, I'll show you. It really works." "Okay, I've GOT to see this!" The game warden was curious. The man poured the fish into the water and stood and waited...After several minutes, the game warden turned to the man and said, "Well?" "Well, what?" the man responded. "When are you going to call them back?" the game warden prompted. "Call who back?" the man asked. "The FISH," the warden said sternly.

"What fish?" the man answered.

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***This one didn't happen on Lake Gogebic.*** Three fishermen were fishing when they came upon a mermaid. The mermaid offered them one wish each.

So the first fisherman said: "double my I.Q" so the mermaid did it and to his surprise, he started reciting Shakespeare.

Then the second fisherman said: "triple my I.Q." and sure enough the mermaid did it and amazingly he started doing math problems he didn't know existed.

The third fisherman was so impressed he asked the mermaid to quadruple his I.Q and the mermaid said "Are you sure about this? It will change your whole life!"

The fisherman said "yes" so the mermaid turned him into a woman...

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One day a rather inebriated ice fisherman (are there any other kind?) drilled a hole in the ice and peered into the hole and a loud voice from above said, "There are no fish down there."

He walked several yards away and drilled another hole and peered into the hole and again the voice said, "There's no fish down there."

He then walked about 50 yards away and drilled another hole and again the voice said, "There's no fish down there."

He looked up into the sky and asked, "God, is that you?"

"No, you idiot," the voice said, "it's the rink manager."

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## LAKE GOGEBIC IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box #75  
Bergland, MI 49910

SPEAKING WITH ONE VOICE FOR THE  
WELFARE OF THE ENTIRE LAKE.

E-mail: :  
[Lakegia@aol.com](mailto:Lakegia@aol.com)

### L.G.I.A. BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

#### OFFICERS

**President— Phil Wirtanen - WUPCAC**  
906 575-3520   [pwirtane@aol.com](mailto:pwirtane@aol.com)

**Vice President— Chris Wirtanen**

906 575-3354   [2wirtanens@gogebicrange.net](mailto:2wirtanens@gogebicrange.net)

**Treasurer—VACANT**

**Secretary—Jim O'Neill**

906 575-3429  
480 223-2022   [LAKEGIA@aol.com](mailto:LAKEGIA@aol.com)

#### COMMITTEES:

**Mark Gregory - Lake Level**  
[mgregory54@gmail.com](mailto:mgregory54@gmail.com)

**Kathy Lowery – AIS & Boat Washing**  
906-842-3638 [moxiepot@live.com](mailto:moxiepot@live.com)

**Carol D'Alberto - Membership**  
906-842-3525 [lkogogebic@gmail.com](mailto:lkogogebic@gmail.com)

**Jim Vigness- Adopt – A – Highway**  
715-212-0918 [jwvigness@gmail.com](mailto:jwvigness@gmail.com)

**Mark Brown**   [hanniebooboo2002@gmail.com](mailto:hanniebooboo2002@gmail.com)

**Jack Kurtz – Loon Nests**  
517 676-1345   [jkurtzmich@aol.com](mailto:jkurtzmich@aol.com)

**Ken Carlson**   [khcarlson@gogebicrange.net](mailto:khcarlson@gogebicrange.net)  
906-575-3301

**Mike Burt**   [carenburt1952@yahoo.net](mailto:carenburt1952@yahoo.net)

**Glenn Korpi**   [gdkorpi@verizon.net](mailto:gdkorpi@verizon.net)

**Mark De Grave**   [madrockminer@gmail.com](mailto:madrockminer@gmail.com)

**Ralph Wirtanen**   [ralphwirtanen@yahoo.com](mailto:ralphwirtanen@yahoo.com)  
906-364-3000

**Steve Salmi**   [steve.salmi@yahoo.com](mailto:steve.salmi@yahoo.com)