



Happy New Year from MLSA!

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CLMP in 2020 - Stay Tuned...

We received this message from EGLE on January 14, 2020: "MiCorps is a network of volunteer water quality monitoring programs in Michigan created by former Governor Granholm under Michigan Executive Order #2003-15 to assist the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) in collecting and sharing water quality data. Initial funding for the MiCorps program was provided through the Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) bond; however, due to the exhaustion of these CMI funds, MiCorps has dealt with uncertainty in the past few years while trying to find another long-term funding source.

EGLE is proud to announce that funding has been secured from Renew Michigan Initiative in order to create a new five-year contract for the MiCorps program. Due to the timing of acquiring this funding and the necessary transition to initiate a new contract, the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) will not be able to be funded in 2020, but will return in 2021.

The CLMP and the Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program (VSMP) will both be included in the new contract. MiCorps is excited to build on this fantastic program by updating the long-term database and website along with reinstating stream macroinvertebrate grants.

MiCorps would like to thank all the volunteers for your support of the program."

A follow up from MLSA: The MiCorps partner organizations - other than EGLE - are exploring ways to maintain some limited volunteer lake monitoring during this transition year. We will be offering monitoring opportunities in 2020 but we only just receive this news from EGLE so we will announce our plans for this year as soon as possible.

Please stay tuned, we will have more information soon!



New! MLSA Virtual Meet Up

We want to meet with you! In each newsletter we will announce a date for a monthly virtual meeting that anyone can join with a link. We will have some general topics ready but really want to hear from you and allow you the time and space to network with other members. Feel free to "zoom" in with the camera and speakers on your computer or call in to the phone number provided.

This month we will be meeting on Friday, January 31st at 1:00PM EST to discuss:

Lake Monitoring and More

Connection details are below:

Join Zoom Meeting - <https://zoom.us/j/103858565>

Meeting ID: 103 858 565

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 103 858 565

WE MOVED!

Our goal for 2020 and beyond is to make sure your membership dollars are working harder for our mission. In an effort to reallocate funds for the important work we all believe in, we have closed our Stanton office. We can still be reached at (989) 831-5100 and info@mlswa.org but our new mailing address is now:

Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, Inc
PO Box 19615
Kalamazoo, MI 49019

Wondering if you missed an opportunity to have an in-person meeting with us? Have no fear! Our board and staff will always be available to assist you and would be happy to set up a coffee shop meeting, a virtual meeting, or attend a larger meeting you may have planned throughout the year.

59th Annual Conference Registration Now Open!

Protecting Michigan's Lakes and Streams



Attend our annual conference on Friday and Saturday, May 1 and 2, 2020 and join the discussion on the Trends and Issues in Boating and Watercraft, and Their Impacts on Michigan's Lakes. We will also have everyone's favorite local session with Cliff Bloom and

MICHIGAN'S LAKES. We will also have everyone's favorite legal session with CHIT DROOM and sessions with practical guidance for lake associations. Check out the Tentative Agenda and register at mymlsa.org or click the button below. Can't wait to see you all there!

Register Here

Possible New Controls on CAFOs

By: Paul J. Sniadecki, MLSA Board Director

EGLE (formerly DEQ) regulators want to revise how the environmental risk from spreading livestock waste on farms is evaluated as part of a new “draft” general permit for industrial scale agriculture businesses known as Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations or CAFOs that would, among other things, prohibit the application of manure on farm fields during three winter months.

Public comment was open through Dec. 18, 2019 on the proposed updates to the state’s general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program for CAFOs. The last revisions to the NPDES Permit Program occurred in 2015 and applied to over 250 NPDES permitted farms in Michigan. Michigan has delegated authority from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue NPDES permits and the state says its proposed changes were developed with EPA input.

EGLE released its planned revisions in late October 2019. Farm industry advocates blasted the proposed changes, while environmental advocates say the new requirements are important measures that will protect water quality and improve public access to permit records.

In Michigan, waste from confined animal farms is usually stored in large lagoons and spread on fields as crop fertilizer. While that can help increase crop yield, it can also degrade water quality when nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen run off into lakes, streams, and rivers as well impact groundwater and wells.

There have been numerous discharges from land application of CAFO waste, especially during winter and this has raised concerns for regulators. Among the larger changes proposed is a ban on spreading CAFO manure in January, February, and March when the ground may be frozen and there is a higher risk of nutrients in the waste sliding into waterways rather than percolating into the soil. Some spreading could occur at the end of March with state regulatory approval.

One of the largest updates is the phasing-in of a screening tool that would replace a simple soil test for phosphorus levels when assessing the risk of manure application. The Michigan Phosphorus Risk Assessment (MPRA) would account for erosion, runoff potential, distance to surface water or a field edge, subsurface drainage, and vegetative buffers.

As of January 12, 2020, the draft version of the permit changes had not been updated to reflect any of the public comments received during December 2019. EGLE has set an April 1, 2020 target date for the implementation of the revised NPDES Permit Program. MLSA will continue to monitor this important matter for the riparians of our state.

A Statement Regarding MWA

The Michigan Waterfront Alliance (“MWA”) was created by officials of the Michigan Lakes & Streams Association, Inc. (“MLSA”) over 20 years ago as an adjunct organization to MLSA. For a variety of legal and other reasons, MWA was established to pursue lobbying and similar activities.

Regrettably, MLSA and MWA have lately had deep philosophical and other disagreements. You may have recently received an email communication from MWA via Scott Brown and Bob Frye regarding that dispute. Unfortunately, MWA has decided to “air its dirty laundry” in public. MLSA has not done so. Suffice it to say that there are always two sides to every dispute, and MLSA does not agree with many of the claims made in MWA’s recent email newsletter.

MLSA will attempt to resolve its differences with MWA “within the family” and will not try to make a public spectacle out of any disagreements.



Updates Proposed to Bottle Deposit Law

By: Paul J Sniadecki, MLSA Board Director

Rep. Jon Hoadley and Sen. Sean McCann have recently introduced legislation seeking to expand Michigan’s bottle deposit law to all beverages except milk containers and provide funding to address contaminated sites.

HB 5306 and SB 701 would modernize the state's "bottle bill." The intent of the legislation is to make the changes needed to keep pace with the ever-evolving beverage containers, including the explosion of single-use plastics. Further, the beverage market has changed from being dominated by pop and beer to water, tea, and other drinks now taking up most of the market. Riparians are well aware of the single use containers that increasingly end up in Michigan’s rivers, lakes, streams, and landfills. The plastic containers can also become a source of micro-plastics in our water resources.

Besides expanding containers subject to a deposit, the bills would implement universal redemption, create a bottle handling fund, make funding available for audits and fraud enforcement, and provide \$25 million annually to address contaminated sites. Both bills are now in their respective Regulatory Reform Committees for review. No hearing dates on these bills have been scheduled as of January 12, 2020.

Shoreline Symposium



Now Accepting 2020 Scholarship Applications

MLSA Announces the 3rd Annual Megan E. Cook Scholarship: for a College Student Working to Protect our Inland Lakes

By: Dr. Jennifer J Jones, MLSA Board Director

One of the primary missions of MLSA is to provide educational opportunities to promising youth that are interested in the health of our precious inland water resources. MLSA believes that every young individual has an opportunity to help with lake protection for future generations. This very belief supports one of our core objectives of sustainable lake protection. This scholarship is the outcome of the tragic loss of Megan E. Cook whose young life was taken far too soon by a drunk driver. Her parents served on the MLSA Board of Directors for many years and made numerous contributions to our organization. MLSA honors her memory each year by awarding a \$1,500 scholarship to a promising college student pursuing research or a degree involving inland lakes.

If you know of someone, or if you yourself are a candidate for this unique scholarship, please fill out this [application form](#). Application deadline is March 30, 2020. Please contact our office with any questions info@mlswa.org or (989) 831-5100. A letter of award will be sent to the recipient and a formal plaque will be presented at the annual MLSA conference on May 1-2, 2020 at the Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville, Michigan.

Megan E. Cook was an intelligent and loved 17-year-old high school senior. As a bright and enthusiastic student, she brought a vibrancy of life to everyone. From Kindergarten through 12th grade her favorite subjects were Science and Health. As the youngest in a home-schooled family, she absorbed knowledge from listening to the older children's lessons. Thus, long before her "formal" school years began, she was constantly learning about the world around her. She also enjoyed reading all she could about mysteries and forensics. Her plan was to study Science in preparation for a career in Forensics. She was thinking about using this type of degree on either a local or state forensics team in the medical field or on a police force.





MLSA and the Michigan Chapter North American Lake Management Society (McNALMS) are pleased to announce the 2020 *Lake Research Student Grants Program*. The purpose of the program is to promote student efforts to work on inland lakes and/or with lake communities to enhance inland lake management. Projects that increase the understanding of lake ecology, have applicability to Michigan lakes, strengthen collaborative lake management, address inland lakes fisheries, build lake partnerships and/or expand citizen involvement in lake management are eligible for consideration. This year, McNALMS and MLSA expect to fund two or more projects from a total pool of \$4,000. Proposals may be part of a larger project. Proposals will be funded for one calendar year.

Examples of previously funded projects include:

- A study on littoral zone restoration and nutrient enrichment source impacts on macrophyte and epiphytic algal communities
- Exploring drivers of cyanobacterial blooms with time-series observations, biogeochemical modeling, and in situ experimentation in a model Great Lakes estuary
- An analysis of phosphorus loading and the ecological impacts from agricultural tile drains in a west Michigan watershed
- A study looking at social, cultural, and economic factors underlying lakeshore property owners' willingness to conserve natural aquatic habitat on their properties.

Applicants must be either University/College graduate student(s) conducting applied research/outreach projects; University/College undergraduate student(s) working on special studies projects; and/or Students enrolled in the Michigan Lake and Stream Leaders Institute, Michigan Conservation Stewards Program, or similar Watershed Academy.

If you know a student who might be interested in applying for funding, please pass this information on to them. Deadline for submission is **February 21, 2020**. Announcement of recipients will be made by the end of March 2020.

MLSA on Facebook and Around the State

Are you looking for a way to network with other lakes around Michigan? Join us for discussion on Facebook, we now have a MLSA member group! Follow the link: [Michigan Lakes and Streams Members](#), click **+ Join Group**, answer the membership questions, and standby for approval. See you there!

Southwest Michigan

The next Region 3 meeting will be May 16, 2020 and all are invited to come join the

discussion. You can contact Craig DeSimone (cucad4@hotmail.com) to be added to the region email list or for more information about the meeting.

South Central Michigan

There is not a meeting scheduled at this time but you may contact Dennis Babjack (dennisbabjack@gmail.com) for information about meetings in this area.

Northeast Michigan

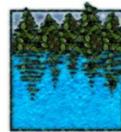
Several Lake Associations in Northeast lower Michigan have expressed interest in having MLSA Regional meeting in their area. MLSA has agreed to explore the level of interest. If you would like to participate in such a meeting contact MLSA at: info@mlswa.org. Additionally, Rex Vaughn, Cedar Lake, in Alcona/Iosco County, cell [810-516-6686](tel:810-516-6686), has agreed to facilitate questions and answers for lakes in his area. If there is a sustainable level of interest, MLSA will assist in coordinating Regional Meetings in Northeast Michigan.

Your Region Here!

We want all members to have access to regional opportunities! If other parts of the state have a similar interest, please contact MLSA at: info@mlswa.org

MLSA Membership

Ready to support our programs and help us improve the waters of Michigan? Click the button to become a member today!



Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society

