



WASSERMANN & PIERSONS LAKE ASSOCIATION JOINT MEETING MINUTES

Invitees: WLA Members, Piersons Lake Association members and invited guest speakers.

Location: Waterbrooke Church basement, 8725 Church Lake Blvd (Co. Rd. 43), Victoria, MN 55386

Date: Monday, August 31, 2015 **Time:** 7:00 PM

7:00 pm Joint Wassermann & Piersons Lake Association Meeting

At 7:14 pm an informal joint informational meeting was started. Introductions had already been done at our WLA annual meeting so we moved on to the discussion section.

1) Introduce attendees from: WLA, U of M, MCWD, CMCW and APPLE

a) Wassermann Lake Association

- (1) John Hayes
- (2) Jim Ryan
- (3) Stan Rud
- (4) Mark Schneider
- (5) Hillary Patz
- (6) Joe Fiedler
- (7) Chris Rud
- (8) Dave Robb
- (9) Dave Segal
- (10) Gail Berger
- (11) David Segal
- (12) Chad Ellman
- (13) Brad Hennen
- (14) Shaun White
- (15) Jeff Wigen

b) Piersons Lake Association (APPLE)

- (1) Steve Mohn
- (2) John Pierson
- (3) Mike Klingehutz
- (4) Jim Leonard

c) Invited Guests

- (1) Justine Koch, U of M Six Mile Creek Carp Assessment Project
- (2) Bill Olson, Victoria Rep on MCWD Board of Managers
- (3) Eric Fieldseth, MCWD AIS Program Manager
- (4) Anna Brown, Planner – MCWD Project Manager
- (5) Jill Bjorklund, MCWD District Rep - AIS Technician
- (6) Joe Shneider, President Coalition of Minnehaha Creek Waters

2) Carp Study Update (Justine Koch)

Justine began by describing the goals of the U of M's 3 year MCWD funded Six Mile Creek sub-watershed Carp Study. Since bottom feeding carp have a large biomass in our lakes, they uproot native plants, stir up phosphorous rich bottom sediment and create significant phosphorous rich excrement. As a result, the carp are efficient algae fertilizer machines that need to be managed. The purpose of



this study is to provide information on carp abundance, movement patterns and spawning locations so the University can recommend how MCWD can effectively manage their population to an acceptable level to improve water quality.

Summary: Carp biomass over 100 pounds per acre cause severe damage to plants and water quality. Wassermann has about 12,000 carp averaging 6 pounds for a biomass of 550 lbs/A. Pierson Lake had a similar carp population but their lake association has removed about 9,000 carp in the last few years resulting in a current population of only 2,500 carp and a biomass of 67 lbs/A. Winter sein netting under the ice is planned on Wassermann in 2016/2017 to help reduce the carp population. We encouraged MCWD to start this winter so we could have two sein nettings before the carp radio transmitter batteries go dead. Netting carp now will not interfere with the carp study according to Professor Peter Sorensen.

A link to the first year carp study report is available at:

http://www.minnehahacreek.org/sites/minnehahacreek.org/files/MCWD_Annual_Report_2014_FINAL.pdf

3) Inspections & Decontamination (Joe Shneider)

Joe gave a brief summary of the zebra mussel eradication done near the boat launch on Christmas Lake by the DNR and MCWD. It was a major learning process and if successful it will be the first time zebra mussels have ever been eliminated from a lake. This was only possible because of early detection and a localized population. The total cost was about \$80,000 including \$20,000 from the lakeshore owners. Significant MCWD staff labor hours are not included in that cost. Christmas Lake now has their own decontamination station and 100% inspections on their gated public access from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm. The \$90,000 annual cost is shared 50% with lakeshore owners and MCWD. Association dues are \$400 with 80% of 140 properties participating. Links to the Christmas Lake zebra Mussel eradication status are on the WLA website.

4) AIS Monitoring (Jill Bjorklund)

Jill reported that Zebra Mussel detector discs were installed on 5 WLA member docks. The owners should file monthly zebra mussel detector reports using the online form <http://form.jotform.us/form/50604499844161>. So far all 5 owners and the MCWD detector at the public boat launch have shown no zebra mussels. MCWD staff inspects their monitor weekly. She also had a sample detector disc showing how small the early zebra mussels are that attach to the discs.

Jill left several AIS lake bottom inspection tubes for volunteers and copies of the new MCWD "AIS Early Detectors How-To Guide". The well-illustrated guide identifies 13 plant and 9 animal AIS species not including common carp.

5) Water Quality & Grades (Eric Fieldseth)



Eric stated that MCWD is doing plant surveys to document the abundance and variety of plants in the lakes.

MCWD is also cost sharing with Carver County for AIS boat inspections. In 2014 one boat was stopped with zebra mussels. In 2014 inspections were done from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm 6 days per week which is only 60 % of the daylight boating hours. Inspections will stop in September as part time staff goes back to school.

Total Inspection Hours	2014	2015
Wassermann Lake	617 hrs	608 hrs
Piersons Lake	1,000 hrs	740 hrs

6) MCWD future Plans (Bill Olson)

Bill reported that they think the zebra mussels were eradicated on Christmas Lake due to early detection and localized location around the boat launch but it will take a few years to be certain. They are doing weekly inspections to verify.

In addition to the new decontamination station on Christmas Lake, there are 22 more in the state including a recently opened one on Lake Waconia. MCWD is piloting a decontamination and trailer tag system on the Christmas Lake decon station to expedite entry through other inspections at launches.

7) Dick Osgood report Recommendations (Stan Rud)

Last winter WLA contracted with certified lake manager Dick Osgood to write an independent report on recommendations to improve Wassermann Lake water quality. Specific recommendations were that bubblers on Wassermann Lake would be ineffective but bubblers may prevent winter kill on Marsh Lake. Short term water quality improvements should include both carp management and Alum treatments to reduce internal phosphorous loading. External phosphorous loading is minimal and priority should be on internal loading reduction.

8) Anna Brown, MCWD Planner – Project Manager

Anna is a newly hired project planner working on a new 10 year MCWD Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan including financials for 2017 through 2026. The plan includes phosphorous reduction for every lake, diagnostic studies and the U of M 3 year six Mile Creek carp study. Capital projects will include Wassermann internal phosphorous load reduction such as: carp management, alum treatment, 10 acre inlet wetland restoration (Lennar credit trade). A new ecosystem E-grade system has been developed and will be used to evaluate progress.



The comprehensive 10 year plan will be complete by early 2017 and focus on Six Mile Creek lakes sub-watershed as a project. Lake associations will be asked for input and feedback in the planning process.

WLA members expressed frustration with the previous 5 years of MCWD planning studies with no improvements to water quality. Requests were made to commence alum treatment planning now so it can be implemented immediately after carp sein netting is done instead of waiting for the alum planning to be started after netting. Sein netting should start this winter so we can get two seasons of netting before the carp radio transmitter batteries go dead.

Bill Olson requested that WLA designate a representative to communicate with MCWD on the planning project. Stan Rud will be the WLA contact.

9) Adjourn Joint Meeting

The joint meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm