



MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE

NEWSLETTER

February 2007

www.mwai.org

MWA Mission Statement “This corporation is formed to protect, preserve and promote the wise use of inland waters – lakes, streams, rivers, creeks and the waters and bottomlands of the state of Michigan.

Presidents’ Corner

By Bob Frye

Dear MWA Members,

Letter to MWA and MLS&A from Pat Springstead, President Higgins Lake property Owners Association:

Members of the Michigan Lakes & Streams Assn. (MLS&A) and the Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) need to keep a close eye on Lansing this year. There is a group of people who live off of Higgins Lake called the Higgins Lake Civic Association (HLCA) who are attempting to circumvent the Jacob’s Ruling through a state statute. They would like to amend the Land Division Act to allow for boat mooring at platted road ends and then pass a state statute to allow local units of government to, by ordinance, allow boat mooring at road ends.

The Higgins Lake Property Owners (HLPOA) have, over the last year, tried to increase legal access for residents who live off the lake while still respecting the Jacob’s Ruling. The stake holders during these discussions included Representative Joel Sheltroun, 103 District, his staff, both local Township Supervisors, the Road Commission, the Department of Natural Resources, and the HLPOA and HLCA. Representative Sheltroun’s office stated that they would prefer a local agreement rather than a state statute. While all the stake holders in the Higgins Lake process expressed a desire to continue the local talks; the Higgins Lake Civic Association said they were still going to pursue legislation to overturn the Jacob’s Road end court rulings.

In the last year Gerrish Township applied for a grant to purchase an existing marina on Higgins Lake. Their first “scoring” from the state was below the desired number, stating that if they were requesting the grant to increase lake access their grant would be denied. The Township was told, by the Department of Natural Resources that there was more than enough lake access at Higgins Lake. The Township had to change their request from a “marina” to a “Gerrish Township Park” with non-boating activities to receive their grant funds. Additional access was increased in the last year also when the two State Parks and the DNR West Launch Site allowed a “drop and go” policy when their parking lots were full. In addition the DNR is going to increase available parking at the West Launch Site by eighty spaces.

The HLCA replaced their moderate President and Vice President with more hard-line officers and let their attorney of twenty years, Bill Horton, go. This can only lead us to believe that they do not just want additional access, but want it at their own particular road ends. We have actually been told by some members of the back-lot group that they actually want deeded access.

Already this year Representative, Matt Gillard (district 106) has sent a bill draft to the Legislative Service Bureau for their review and analysis. This is the first step in preparation to introduce an unfriendly road end bill to the House of Representatives.

(Continued on Page 2)

While both of our attorneys, Cliff Bloom and Bill Carey do not think that these attempts would withstand judicial review we need to be diligent and proactive in the legislature in voicing our displeasure with Rep. Gillard's proposed legislation. You are encouraged to be generous with your donations to the Waterfront Alliance so that they can actively lobby on your behalf in Lansing. You should also monitor the MLS&A and MWA websites for information regarding road-ends and what you should do to help defeat this bill that would have a very negative effect on all our riparian interests in the State of Michigan

Best Regards,
Bob Frye, MWA President

Michigan Waterfront Alliance -Legislative Update - February 2007 By Nikki McCord

During the last MWA board meeting, we were fortunate to have Sen. Patty Birkholz, Chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee to speak to the group. She talked about upcoming legislative issues such as additional oversight of on-site disposal systems (septic tanks), DEQ/DNR funding and upcoming fees, mercury bans and reductions, as well as land use protections, private property rights and takings claims. As this legislative session starts, I will keep a close eye on these issues and report as necessary to the MWA.

For this newsletter, I have included the new legislators who are on committees that will be important to MWA issues. Please familiarize yourself with these names as they will be making the decisions that will influence MWA issue priorities. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

New Committees

Here is a listing of the new committees in the House who will deal with MWA issues. I have also included the committee members names as well as their hometowns. Please also remember that the Democrats are the majority in the House and the Republicans are the majority in the Senate.

HOUSE COMMITTEES:

GREAT LAKES AND ENVIRONMENT (Democrat 9/Republican 6),

Democrat: Chair Rebekah [Warren](#) (Ann Arbor), Vice Chair Marie [Donigan](#) (Royal Oak), Kaet [Ebli](#) (Monroe), Martin [Griffin](#) (Jackson), Kathleen [Law](#) (Gibraltar), Gabe [Leland](#) (Detroit), Mark [Meadows](#) (East Lansing), Fred [Miller](#) (Mount Clemens), Mary [Valentine](#) (Muskegon)

Republican: Minority Vice Chair David [Robertson](#) (Grand Blanc), Judy [Emmons](#) (Sheridan), Arlan [Meekhof](#) (Olive Twp), John [Moolenaar](#) (Midland), Brian [Palmer](#) (Romeo), Howard [Walker](#) (Traverse City)

TOURISM, OUTDOOR RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES (Democrat 7/Republican 4)

Democrat: Chair Joel [Sheltrown](#) (West Branch), Vice Chair Kate [Ebli](#) (Monroe), Terry [Brown](#) (Pigeon), Ted [Hammon](#) (Burton), Kathleen [Law](#) (Gibraltar), Steven [Lindberg](#) (Marquette), Mike [Simpson](#) (Jackson)

Republican: Minority Vice Chair Tom [Casperson](#) (Escanaba), Kenneth [Horn](#) (Frankenmuth), John [Stakoe](#) (Highland), Howard [Walker](#) (Traverse City)

SENATE COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS (NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE) (Republican 2/Democrat 1)

Republican: Chair Michelle [McManus](#) (Lake Leelanau), Vice Chair Ron [Jelinek](#) (Three Oaks)

Democrat: Minority Vice Chair Liz [Brater](#) (Ann Arbor)

[NATURAL RESOURCES/ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS](#) (Republican 3/Democrat 2)

Republican: Chair Patty [Birkholz](#) (Saugatuck) , Vice Chair Gerald [VanWoerkom](#) (North Shores), Bruce [Patterson](#) (Canton)

Democrat: Minority Vice Chair Ray [Basham](#) (Taylor), Mike [Prusi](#) (Ishpeming)

[Nikki R. McCord](#)

[Scofes & Associates Consulting, Inc.](#)

[Director for Communications and Research](#)

[535 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing, MI 48933](#)

ML&SA takes a leadership role in water withdrawal

Michigan Lakes and Streams Association(ML&SA) is one of the few organizations that has been actively involved in trying to control the withdrawal of water by Nestle Water North America from the Mecosta county from the beginning. When Don Winne, Executive Director of ML&SA first found out about the Perrier Group, subsequently known as Nestle Water North America, he began contacting Lake Associations in the affect area to find out if they wanted any assistance in opposing Nestle’s plan for bottling groundwater. At this time people were not sure about what was going to happen and did not want to get involved. Fearing what might happen in the future Don contacted Perrier with specific questions. Soon after this Gary Swier, president of the Horsehead Lake Association and his wife Terry also became concerned and formed a non profit group called Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation (MCWC). Horsehead Lake is within ten miles of the well drilled in Mecosta County.

Terry Swier, President of MCWC requested that ML&SA consider filing an amicus brief with the Appeals Court. The ML&SA board approved this request and hired an attorney to prepare and file the amicus brief. This brief was filed with the Appeals Court on November 11, 2004. This case has now gone to the Supreme Court and ML&SA will probably file

another amicus brief with the Supreme Court.

Michigan Lake & Streams is reviewing the most recent plans of Nestles to pump from below the surface in Osceola and Newaygo County. On January 20, 2004 Governor Granholm stated that Michigan needs a comprehensive water withdrawal statute. One of the options that Don Winnie as Executive Director is considering is to ask the state to establish a moratorium on High Capacity well permits until the State passes a comprehensive groundwater withdrawal statute.

ML&SA would like to hear from you on this issue, after all ML&SA is your organization and we continue to strive to support you and your lake association on issues that affect you.

Ed Highfield
ML&SA Vice President – Region 8

**SUMMARY MWA MEETING(S)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS-1/31/07
Lansing, MI** (unapproved)

The regular meeting was called to order 10:00 am . Present were Bonnell, Brown, R. Carey, Frye, Highfield, Sharp, Tynning and N. McCord. P. Springstead & Sen. P. Birkholz also were in attendance.

1. President reviewed 2 received memos.
2. Minutes of September 21, 2006 were amended, and then they were approved as amended.
3. Treasurer’s report was presented and amended.
4. Moved and approved to reimburse N. McCord for attendance of a seminar on Michigan Water Legislation.

5. N. McCord reviewed upcoming legislative issues that had yet to be reintroduced with new bill numbers.
6. R. Carey reviewed ML&SA appointing S. Brown to walk along D. Winne for next two years.
7. B. Sharp reported on a DEQ meeting he attended about deficits and needs for fee increases.
8. B. Frye discussed a proposal to test market a membership recruitment program.
9. A DVD was distributed on the boat noise project and will be sent to all Sheriff's.
10. P. Springstead updated the Board on recent approaches being tried on road ends.
11. P. Birkholz discussed legislative issues of importance to her and the Natural Resources Committee.
12. Annual Meeting in April 2007 was discussed regarding guest speaker & election of board members whose term expires. Frye will secure speaker from suggested list from the Board. Terms expiring are- Sipes, Frye, W. Carey, Sharp & R. Carey. All accepted nomination to the ballot, R. Carey needs to be nominated by ML&SA. Ballots will be sent to membership in a timely manner.
13. Next meeting date was set for 4/21/07- Annual Membership Meeting 5pm

Meeting was adjourned at 1:55pm
Respectfully submitted, R. Carey



**MICHIGAN
WATERFRONT
ALLIANCE,
ONLY THROUGH YOUR**

**ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT, IS YOUR
LAKE PROTECTED**

**Your Support
Does
Make a difference!**

MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE
P.O. Box 346, Three Rivers, Michigan 49093
Phone (269) 273-8200 Fax (269)273-2919
Email: mwai@mlswa.org
WEB SITE: www.mwai.org

**Michigan Waterfront Alliance
Board of Directors:**

Officers:

President **Robert Frye** Ph 989-821-6661
Email: skibones@aol.com
Vice President **Richard Brown** Ph 810-629-5964
Email: RLSBrown@prodigy.net
Secretary **Roger Carey** Ph 989-588-9538
Email: mcarey55@earthlink.net
Treasurer **Pearl Bonnell** Ph 989-257-3583
Email: pbonnell@mlswa.org

Directors:

Ed Highfield Ph 231-972-2190
Email: edhelenhighfield@centurytel.net
Del Sipes Ph 269-463-8166
Email: delavan1122@comcast.net
William Carey Ph 989-348-5232
Email: wlc@freeway.net
Bill Sharp Ph 517-332-4255
Email: aewbsharp@voyager.net
Pam Tying PH 517-647-2294
Email: tyningP@progressiveae.com

Membership Application



**The minimum annual dues for individual membership In Michigan Waterfront Alliance are \$25.
Commercial and Individual Donations Are Appreciated**

Please Print:

_____ () _____ - _____ () _____ - _____
Last Name First Name Day Phone Evening Phone

_____ _____ _____ _____
Street Address City State Zip Code

_____ _____ _____
County Township Lake or Stream Association if established

Make Checks payable to: **Michigan Waterfront Alliance**
Mail to: **MWA, P.O. Box 204**
Long Lake, MI 48743

Feb 2007