

Article on MLIB for web site and Twp Newsletter and MLA newsletter

The Manistee Lake Improvement Board (MLIB) concluded its 2018 schedule of activities with its end of the year meeting on November 26, 2018. MLIB's consultant, Progressive AE presented its 2018 Report on Manistee Lake water quality and invasive species surveys and activities. Water quality of Manistee Lake has remained fairly stable with good dissolved oxygen values and fair clarity. Other parameters such as conductivity and PH were normal as they have been in previous years. Phosphorus levels in the water were also low. This report is posted on the Manistee Lake Association (MLA) web site.

MLIB approved treatment of the identified 9 acres of Eurasian Milfoil that were found in the lake during the spring survey. Subsequent surveys demonstrated that our limited, selective chemical treatment of these areas was successful as no live milfoil was found. The MLIB has been evaluating a new opportunity to resume the use of milfoil weevils. A company in Kalamazoo is undertaking a research effort with the State of Michigan to rear milfoil weevils and place them in three lakes. This company is also looking to market excess weevils from this effort. There are many as yet unanswered questions about resuming the use of weevils for milfoil control in Manistee Lake. However, in order to be able to consider this option along with continued chemical spot treatment, the MLIB has placed a deposit with the company producing the weevils which will allow us to determine, once our Spring milfoil survey is complete, which treatment option is the best choice for our lake.

MLIB also received a presentation from Dr. David Jude on the fishery research effort that has been on going for the past three years. While a final report is not ready yet, preliminary results indicate that the fishery in Manistee Lake has improved significantly from previous years. Seine and gill net surveys found an increased diversity of fish species and more importantly, a significant increase in minnow populations and diversity of species over previous years. Additional data on fish age, diet and chemical and algae analyses is not yet available. Once the report is complete, it will be posted on the MLA web site.

The Joint MLA/MLIB Fish Improvement Team is proceeding with its project to plant minnows in Manistee Lake next Spring. This project, once approved by the Department of Natural Resources, will result in planting of 425,000 Golden Shiner, Emerald Shiner and Fathead minnows. The MLA approved covering the \$10,000 cost of this project.

Lastly, the MLIB accepted the final audit report from the auditing firm of Tobin & Co., P.C. This is the second audit conducted as required by state statute. No issues were identified in the audit which indicated that the MLIB is properly accounting for and managing your tax dollars.

MLIB meetings were scheduled for 2019 as follows: Monday, May 20, 2019 at the Coldsprings Township hall, Monday July 22, 2019 at the Excelsior Township hall and Monday October 21, 2019 at the Coldsprings Township hall. All meetings are at 7:00 P.M.