

2004 REGION 5 ANNUAL REPORT: April 2004 - April 2005

Lake Associations in Gratiot, Ingham, Genessee, Livingston, Saginaw & Shiaswassee Counties

Virginia Himich, Region 5 Vice President

1125 Sunrise Park Drive

Howell, MI 48843

Phone (517) 548-2194 Email himichv@michigan.gov

Membership: During Year 2004, 19 lake associations in Region 5 were paid MLSA members. Overall, Region 5 lost memberships from 8 previous lake associations and gained membership from two new associations. I wish to thank all the associations that paid dues and/or contributed to the MLSA in 2004 for their support and participation. Region 5 wishes to encourage our regional lake associations that have not yet renewed or obtained memberships for Year 2005 to do so as soon as possible. **The MLSA depends upon money from your memberships to put on programs such as the annual conference.** In addition, if you know of any lake residents, government officials, or community residents in Region 5 who may be interested in joining MLSA (individually or otherwise), have them contact me for MLSA membership information.

Meetings and Conferences: From April 2004 through April 2005, Region 5 held a fall conference and one (1) lake representative meeting.

- **Fall Conference:** Region 5's fall conference was held on October 16, 2004 at the Hamburg Township Senior Center in Whitmore Lake. It was a joint conference hosted by Regions 1, 2, 5, and 6. The conference was very well attended—with approximately 35 attendees. Chris Riggs, Huron River Watershed Council, Upper Huron Coordinator, made a presentation on the Huron River Watershed. His talk was entitled "Working with local government, citizens, and volunteers to protect the Huron River". This talk was followed by a presentation by Jeffrey Dee Holler, CEP. Mr. Holler is a consulting Scientist/Limnologist. His presentation was entitled "An Investigation of the Potential Effects of Proposed Ground Water Augmentation on the Chemical, Physical, & Biological Ecology of Waumegah Lake-Northern Oakland County Michigan". Water augmentation in Lake Waumegah is a very controversial topic. The project is in litigation by the Lake Waumegah residents because their permit for pumping water into the lake level to maintain the lake's legal level has been denied by the State. Mr. Holler's presentation discussed the reasons for permit denial. Residents from Lake Waumegah were present at the seminar and they put on a presentation following Mr. Holler's talk summarizing the history of the project, reasons for needing the permit, and their concerns regarding denial of the permit. A great deal of discussion followed the two presentations—it was very interesting and informative. All attendees were pleased to hear the two different viewpoints on a very controversial project. Following lunch, Bert Smith, Biologist and Division Manager from EnviroScience, talked about placing Milfoil Weevils into lakes to eradicate Eurasian Watermilfoil. Mr. Smith's presentation was interesting and informative. One lake association attending the seminar recently placed weevils into their lake. As such, there were discussions about local projects where this technology had actually been used with real life pros/cons. The presentation and follow-up discussions were very helpful to lake associations considering this technology for controlling the Eurasian Watermilfoil in their lakes. After the speaker portion of the seminar, Don Winne and Pearl Bonnell made short presentations to discuss MLSA issues. The seminar concluded at approximately 4:00 pm. It was one seminar where participants stayed to the end and talked amongst themselves. In general, the attendees were pleased with the seminar and expressed interest in continuing seminars of this nature.
- **Lake Representative Meeting:** Region 5 held a lake representatives meeting jointly with Region 1 and the Hamburg Township CLMP participants on February 12, 2005. The meeting was held at the Hamburg Township Senior Center in Whitmore Lake. Approximately 30 people from Regions 1 and 5 were in attendance. Several of the meeting attendees were new to the CLMP program and were attending this lake representatives meeting for the first time. Howard Wandell, as an invited speaker, summarized the need for volunteers to monitor Michigan's lakes and the positive outcome that can come from these efforts. He also discussed the MLSA/DEQ Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) and the tests conducted as part of that program. Charles Kronk, from Waterworks Systems and Equipment also attended the meeting and spoke about the Michigan Water Environment Association (MWEA)—their mission and their projects. Mr. Kronk is the president elect of the MWEA. One of the MWEA's projects involves educating school age kids about water and the environment. The MWEA has a CD presentation and a book that can be purchased—Mr. Kronk showed the CD presentation, passed out copies of the presentation, and asked attendees to spread the word.

Regional Plans: Region 5 hopes to build membership in the MLSA through additional lake association, corporate, and individual memberships. We also plan to host at least one lake representatives meeting and a fall conference in October, 2005. If you have ideas for future regional activities, please contact me. I welcome your thoughts.

Region 5 Needs:

- The MLSA Region 5 is still in need of a volunteer to act as the Second Vice President for the region. This volunteer would be responsible for promoting MLSA lake and stream matters, helping Region 5 lake association members, individual members, and corporate members learn and understand riparian issues, providing direction to regional members if they have questions about riparian issues, and helping to coordinate regional seminars and trainings. If you have an interest in serving in this capacity, please contact Ginny Himich. It's a wonderful opportunity to work with a growing organization and to promote protection of Michigan's valuable lakes and streams.
- I would like to generate an email contact list with email addresses for a representative from each of our Region 5 member lake associations. At the current time, I do not have a complete list of email addresses for our Region 5 member associations. Email is a very effective way to pass along important MLSA updates and information to help you keep informed about MLSA business. I am encouraging each Region 5 lake association president to provide me with an email address for a person in your lake association who can serve as a contact person for your association. That person would be the person to whom I direct emails about the MLSA and the person responsible for bringing the information to the attention of your lake association board. Please send your email address to: himichv@michigan.gov. Thank you for your help!
- I would like to receive news about important events/happenings on your lake so that I can share the information with our regional membership. If you have something to share, send it to me. Your news/event may help other members solve similar problems. And, it's a great way to share your successes!