

McKenzie Lakes Association Newsletter – Fall 2020

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September Meeting Minutes, 2020 Accomplishments Posted

The final MLA meeting was held on September 5 at McKenzie Landing. [Access the minutes](#) to get the recap of the meeting along with details on MLA activities, membership stats and other reports.

Members may be surprised by what our association has accomplished during 2020 – one of the most challenging years ever. Be sure to take a moment to [review the list](#) and give yourself a pat on the back or thank those you know who have given their time to help MLA chug along in spite of this year's roadblocks.

Plan Ahead for These 2021 MLA Events

It's not too early to plan your attendance and involvement in association activities for 2021. Please mark these important dates on your 2021 calendar and at the same time consider your capacity for volunteerism – especially for boat inspections and the Booya!

May – September – All boat landings will be staffed on weekends and holidays to educate boaters on the need to comply with law regarding spraying all watercrafts to deter spread of aquatic invasive species.

May 8 – Roadside clean-up

May 29 – 1st MLA meeting

June 26 – 2nd MLA meeting (Annual Meeting)

July 4 – Boat parades

July 31 – 3rd MLA meeting

August 7 – 30th Annual Booya

September 4 – 4th MLA meeting

Watch for more on the need for volunteers in upcoming newsletters and on the [website](#). Questions? Send an [email](#) to Sandy Swanson.

Here's the Scoop on the Latest Zebra Mussels Survey

The summer 2020 Aquatic Invasive Species Point Intercept Survey report provided these details regarding zebra mussels for the McKenzie Lakes.

Big McKenzie Lake: Zebra mussels (ZM) were found in abundance along many shoreline areas and were visible in sediment and attached to hard surfaces. In addition, ZM were observed attached to Chinese mystery snails, dragonfly nymphs and a variety of vegetation in the lake, particularly northern watermilfoil. **Middle McKenzie Lake:** ZM were not viewed in abundance, nor were they viewed attached to any vegetation that was examined. **Lower McKenzie Lake:** No ZM were viewed/found.

Research moving forward

MLA board member Scott Ballantyne, PhD, reports good news on the zebra mussel research front. Scott and two University of Minnesota scientists who have sequenced the zebra mussel genome have secured a two-year grant (beginning January 2021) to continue their research with the long-term aim to control/eliminate the zebra mussel population. Future research updates will be posted on the [website](#).

2020-2021 Board Officers

Board officers will continue as-is for 2021: President Sandy Swanson; Vice President George Kuechle; Treasurer Jeff Larson. UPDATE: The Board approved and enthusiastically welcomes Jan Caldwell to fill the 2-year open board position and office of Secretary. Many thanks to Jan for stepping up to fill this important role!

We're Only as Strong as Our Members ...

And we need a leader to bulk up our membership ranks!

MLA is seeking a volunteer **Membership Director** to form a membership committee and take charge of maintaining, building and engaging current and potential members. Have you had some thoughts on how this might be accomplished and think you may be a good fit for this very part-time endeavor? Have you had experience in a similar capacity in another organization? Even if you have *no experience* but are committed to helping MLA grow and thrive, we'd like to hear from you! Learn more about this vital role by contacting [Sandy Swanson](#).

Time to Consider Fish Sticks!

At the September membership meeting, Mike Pederson presented a grant opportunity for funds that would cover materials and shoreline installation of fish sticks, which would provide healthy habitats for many lake species and provide a sheltering area for fish. Following discussion, members voted unanimously to proceed with the grant application.

Members interested in having fish sticks on their shoreline should first consider [specific criteria](#), then contact Mike at 715-456-2508 to express interest.

Kudos to Mike for applying for the grant and agreeing to administer this program, should the grant (up to \$25,000) be awarded. It is anticipated that grant recipients would be announced in March 2021. MLA would serve as the umbrella organization for the grant.

Snazzy Website Continues to Evolve

If you haven't checked out the most recent improvements to our [MLA website](#), why not take a few minutes to do so now? MLA has been working with a local design firm to improve navigation and provide enhanced features and content. While always a work in progress, it's great to get more information to members via electronic means, especially since some members feel it best to shelter at home for the time being. If you have ideas for content or improvement of the website, please [send an email](#) with your thoughts. Thanks!