

**Benzie Watersheds Coalition**  
**Fall Meeting – October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018**

Attendance: John Ransom, Jane Perrino, Jodi Monteith, Mel Keranen, Kent Taylor, Mary Reed, Emily Cook, Rebecca Koteskey, Stacy and Carol Daniels, Dave Wynn, Mark Smith, Dennis Wiand, Bill Henning, Ed Hoogterp, Fred Oeflein, Mike Pattison, Jerry Heiman, John Ester

1:35 PM – Meeting Called to Order & Introductions

John Ransom

<p><a href="#">Ann Lake Property Owners Assoc.</a></p>	<p>Have brought in PLM to monitor lake for invasive plants, and will compliment with their own surveys (curly leaf pondweed &amp; starry stonewort). Continue to have township assist with 50% cost of monitoring (approx. \$1,300 per year).Need to detail how a response would take place if AIS detected, joint effort with Pearl Lake (Judy Baker).</p> <p>Volunteer surveys noted purple loosestrife, and 80% of properties that had PL eradicated it themselves, 20% allowed ALPOA to remove.</p>	<p>Kent Taylor</p>
<p><a href="#">Benzie Long Lake Assoc.</a></p>	<p>Fish planting efforts: hybrid bluegills, hybrid sunfish, bass// Heather Hettinger DNR Fish biologist recently did an electro-fish survey of the lake.</p> <p>Survey annually for invasive shoreline plants, and have GIS map of identified invasive shoreline plants (NW MI Invasive Species Network). Treatments have been done by Wetland and Wildlife Solutions in the past.</p> <p>Fall board meeting: excellent time to follow-up on summer activities, made point on insurance policy for lake association.</p>	<p>Mel Keranen</p>
<p><a href="#">Portage Lake Watershed Forever</a></p>	<p>Finishing up second Special Assessment District, in 2019 going for a 10 year SAD. Updating Watershed Management Plan (which is 10 years old), hoping to submit it in December 2018.</p> <p>Not a 501 c-3, but investigating.</p>	<p>Mary Reed</p>
<p>Benzie County River Improvement Company</p>	<p>Active through attendance of regional conferences, about 12 presentations state-wide. Provided updated handouts. Archibald Jones Day update; excellent attendance this year.</p> <p><a href="http://www.crystalana.com/index.html">http://www.crystalana.com/index.html</a> website contains additional work</p>	<p>Stacy L. Daniels</p>
<p>Benzie County Drain Commissioner</p>	<p>County paid for and received reports on lake level dams (Deadstream Dam, Crystal Outlet, Lower Herring Lake Dam). All in good standing – though a little erosion around edges.</p> <p>Met with Benzie County Road Commission to speak about Phosphorus fertilizer when they do new roads. Had been using an old outdated formula. They accepted input and will use low-phosphorous.</p> <p>Will testify on Eagle Lake case downstate, regarding a boat launch that is being contested. Will speak specifically to the provision for invasive species control whenever a new boat launch is constructed (as stated in DEQ Regulatory verbiage). Adhere to “modern standards.”</p> <p>Putting together a progress report for the Betsie River &amp; Crystal Lake Watershed Management Plan with partners.</p>	<p>Ed Hoogterp</p>
<p>Upper Herring Lake Association</p>	<p>Participated in hybrid milfoil DNA analysis, with Montana State – to learn what is Northern/Eurasian/Hybrid in Upper Herring Lake, free through CLMP.</p> <p>Waiting to hear back on Herring Lakes Watershed Management Plan status (DEQ Approved, awaiting on EPA)</p>	<p>Bill Henning</p>
<p>Lower Herring Lake Association</p>	<p>Very involved membership has helped move treatments along for Phragmites and Eurasian watermilfoil. Treated N, and E portions of lake (600\$ per acre, \$5800 total) – fortunate that the littoral zone is short and therefore limits spread.</p> <p>Worked on lake level management, permission to dredge when needed.</p> <p>Close to 501 c-3 status, working on website.</p>	<p>Mark Smith</p> <p>Fred Oeflein</p>

<p><a href="#">Little Platte Lake Association</a></p>	<p>Lake levels seem low.          Successful event on Little Platte with the BCD in August, aquatic plants paddle.          Milfoil efforts: hired Restorative Land Science to survey (Clarke Aquatic Services did treatment). Some riparian permissions were hard to obtain due to lack of local contact information, did get 100%. September: final assessment they could not detect EWM in the main 5 acre area.          Filed for a 2% Grand Traverse Band Grant in 2018 through Lake Township for treatment – did not receive.</p>	<p>John Ester</p>
<p><a href="#">Crystal Lake &amp; Watershed Association</a></p>	<p>Biggest issue remains Swimmer’s Itch – 2017 there was merganser duck removal program with positive response. 2018 continued with 16 broods (13 hens, 133 ducklings) relocated to Hodenpyl and Tippy Dam lakes. Trained 2 local people to continue ongoing removal, reduce program overhead. Plan to pay local hunters to target migrating waterfowl, and complete necropsies to inspect parasitism.          Completed lake aquatic vegetation survey; about 5 acre area of Eurasian watermilfoil to watch. Also submitted samples for hybrid DNA analysis.          26 years of the “Crystal Lake Walkabout” field trip! 750 membership high.          Zoning variance requests in several townships, the CL&amp;WA feels the need to make a comment.          Michigan Swimmers Itch Partnership meeting in Traverse City, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>          @ Northwest Michigan Horticultural Facility 9:30am-3pm          *Ed Hoogterp clarifies lifecycle details, concerning warm and cold-blooded hosts.</p>	<p>Dave Wynne</p>
<p><a href="#">Zero Gravity Aerial / Long Lake Association</a>          Grand Traverse</p>	<p>Long Lake – Interest in boat washing at township level.          Swimmer’s Itch is a key focal issue: no mergansers however still quite a bit of itch (similar to S. Lake Leelanau). Entered research program, learned there may be as many as 8 different shistosomes that contribute to the itch. Conducting Quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction analysis, university of Alberta Canada.          Working with Clearwater Lake Management for milfoil treatment, utilizing aerial assistance to make treatment more effective.          *Sometimes milfoil patches “crash” without treatment but generally they do come back within a season or two. Likely bacterial causes.          Weevils: start at \$1 - \$1.25 per beetle, found about 65% success. Not sure if will repeat an integrated pest management approach again, costly.          Had opportunity to present at “Walkabout.”          Utilized drone assistance to improve survey projects efficiency.</p>	<p>Dennis Wiand</p>
<p><a href="#">Platte Lake Improvement Association</a></p>	<p>Assessed by <a href="#">Michigan Swimmers Itch Partnership</a>, apparently have a slight problem.          Applied for DNR permit to be able to relocate ducks in 2019.          Aerial survey renders 57 acres of vegetation that needs to be watched.          Phragmites sites being treated this fall and next spring.          Walleye may not be planted because they threaten coho fry, however this year was the third very successful coho runs          Water Quality: 2 point sources of phosphorous loading, Hatchery and Honor Water Treatment plant, however having a hard time tracking down data on activities in the watershed. PLIA and BCD submitted a letter to the Governor.          Phosphorous levels are ‘getting to a good place’.</p>	<p>Jerry Heiman           Mike Pattison</p>
<p><a href="#">Benzie Conservation District</a></p>	<p>Millage was renewed with slight increase, 0.125 mill for 4 years  <a href="#">“Michigan Inland Lakes Convention”</a> early October in Grand Rapids, John &amp; Jane presented about their programs and recommend attendance in future.          Cold Creek Basin Grant Update: testing confirmed <i>E coli</i> at most sites, source unknown; coho and trout present in creek however; John hopes to re-apply for funding fall 2019.          Another successful <i>Volunteer Stream Monitoring</i> in October, bug ID/count in winter.          John attended <a href="#">Leelanau Clean Water</a> seminar on drone use – found it to be versatile!          Jane reported that the <i>AIS Pathways Project</i> is on-track and exceeding goals. THANKS          Please submit 2019 boat washing or public speaking requests to <a href="mailto:Jane@benziecd.org">Jane@benziecd.org</a></p>	<p>John Ransom           Jane Perrino</p>

<a href="#">Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network</a>	<p>Treatment in Benzie: garlic mustard work-bees (Tank Hill, CSA, Railroad Point trail); hope to continue GM dumpsters and are open for suggestions on sites; autumn olive removal at the gate of Frankfort; 2 rounds on 17 sites in June 20 in August for Japanese knotweed; baby's breath removal on Elbert Beach, Crystal Downs and Sleeping Bear; Phragmites treatments; Kudzu treatment near Crystal Lake "Kudzu Cottage"; purple loosestrife beetle release in Honor which will be monitored</p> <p>*First case of <b>black swallow wort</b> (invasive milkweed) in Kingsley, kills monarch larva.</p>	<p>Emily Cook</p> <p>Rebecca Koteskey</p>
<p>Stacy Daniels</p>	<p>Extension of Watershed Map:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Offered to extend the Benzie Crystal Lake watershed map to include all Benzie lakes and watersheds</li> <li>- Taking suggestions, contact <a href="mailto:stacydan@chartermi.net">stacydan@chartermi.net</a></li> </ul>	
<p>Special Comment</p>	<p>Kent Taylor – concern about interaction between Canadian geese and Common loons on Lake Ann.</p> <p>Mark Smith – concern about beaver damage taking place on Lower Herring Lake, ways to discourage damage to riparian zone?</p>	

Adjourn 3:43 PM (19 in attendance)

Next Meeting: May 2019 TBD