



Shore Lines

"Promoting Safe Fun on Clean Lakes"

Cisco Chain Solutions

As discussed and agreed upon at Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association's annual meeting on July 14, 2011 a paper ballot was mailed to our entire membership of 412 whose dues were current. In the cases where both a mailing and lake address were on file, ballots were sent to both so that no members were missed. The purpose of the vote was to give your CCROA Board permission to act and interact reasonably with the necessary government and business entities to facilitate the purchase of Cisco Lake Dam. There were 271 responses to the paper ballot, with 265 in favor and 6 opposed. The Board was appreciative of the vote of confidence and has continued to vigorously pursue the complicated and laboriously process necessary to purchase Cisco Lake Dam

As stated in the previous issue of Shore Lines (Summer 2011), the new parent company of the Upper Peninsula Power Company, Integrys has a policy of divesting itself of all non power producing dams and CCROA was offered first refusal rights. If our Association fails to act there will be other groups such as American Rivers and Michigan Department of Natural Resources, both well organized and well funded environmental groups that have a policy to open dams and allow waters to run freely, who could purchase and control the dam. The primary issues of ownership include: insurance, maintenance, day to day operations and funding.

Regarding the acquisition of insurance extensive research was

conducted by Wes Kiley and others with Board approval. Even though it would be possible to purchase an individual insurance policy for the dam, it was the decided that



the best option would be to partner with a government entity as their participation would greatly reduce insurance costs. Also, this option would have a positive effect with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) whose approval is necessary for any purchase of the dam. Both Watersmeet Township and Gogebic County Board of Commissioners were considered as possible partners. On Wednesday, September 28, 2011, Ironwood attorney David McDonald Jr., Kully Rohlen and Wes Kiley represented CCROA at a Gogebic County Board of Commissioners meeting in Bessemer to work out a contract in which the county would assume ownership of Cisco Dam which is currently under control of UPPCO who has a 40 year license with 33 years remaining. To date expenses of operation and maintenance including rebuilding were paid by UPPCO. CCROA would purchase the dam from UPPCO (now Integrys) for \$15,000 and then turn it back

to the county for \$1. A vote by the Gogebic county Board was 8-1 to proceed and to iron out the details of a contract. Under the contract, our association would subsequently become responsible for the maintenance and operation of the dam. An article detailing the entire September 28th meeting, including a color picture appeared on the front page of the Ironwood Globe on September 29, 2011. ransami@yourdailyglobe.com

With regard to maintenance, the dam was rebuilt by UPPCO in 2008 and is in good condition. It is proposed that the integrity of the dam and necessary operations, now performed by UPPCO, be assigned to a part time employee "dam operations manager" who would be paid from income from a separate not-for-profit company formed as a subsidiary of CCROA.

In early October, all CCROA members received a letter, signed by President, Kully Rohlen that initialized the process of establishing a fund for the purchase and maintenance of Cisco Dam. Since that letter lacked both financial

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FATHERS' DAY BREAKFAST

June 17, 2012 Bent's Camp

CCROA BUSINESS MEETING

Thursday July 19, 2012

ANNUAL PICNIC

Saturday, July 21, 2012



After the vote to allow your CCROA Board to proceed by using their collective best judgment for the purpose of buying Cisco Lake Dam and preserving property values on the Chain, there now seems to be a concerted effort to confuse the issues. One erroneous rumor is that UPPCO really didn't want to sell the dam, but was coerced into doing so by CCROA. Logic would cause us to believe that CCROA can't force the power company to do anything that they didn't want or need to do. That is the case with Cisco Lake Dam. UPPCO has been purchased by a larger conglomerate Integrys. Headquartered in Green Bay, Wisconsin Integrys has a policy of divesting itself of all non power

Conversations with Kully

generating assets, including Cisco Lake Dam. They approached us last January (2011) with a proposal to buy the dam and we responded that we were interested in ownership. After ten months of working together it now appears that the sale will go through.

We have determined that our expenses will be from about \$6,000 to \$10,000 per year for maintenance, insurance and a part-time dam keeper's salary. Your Board decided that instead of asking members to come up with that amount of money annually, a one time major fund could be established and the annual proceeds dedicated to cover the costs. The main reason the amount appears to be so large is that interest rates on insured investments are so low they wouldn't generate enough money if the fund were any smaller.

The next objective was to position the CCROA so that the Federal Regulatory Energy Commission would approve the sale of the dam. Working Closely with Integrys, it was determined that if we partnered with a municipal entity such as a township or county,

there was a much better chance of FERC's approval. After several discussions with The Watersmeet Township Board and their lawyers, Watersmeet decided that they were not interested in being responsible for the dam. Next the CCROA approached the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners to assess their interest and at present it appears that they are willing to partner. We are presently working with them to facilitate the conclusion of a contract.

As to the dam fund, the reality of today's investment climate is that only 1½% interest is being paid on the safest investments. That means that \$400,000 would only generate \$6,000 per year. We believe that we can work to keep costs within that constraint. I hope this answers some of the questions that are being discussed in smaller local groups where very few facts are known. The fund raising letters that were sent weren't looking to raise all of the money needed, but instead to give the average lakeshore owner a chance to help in the effort to secure his investment in both land and housing.

Kelly Rohlen

Father's Day Benefit Breakfast 2011



Head Waitress, Judy Hilgard, missing in action.

The Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association (CCROA) held its Fourth Annual Father's Day Benefit Breakfast at Bent's Camp on Sunday, June 19, 2011. Many Dads, Grandpas, Pops, Daddy-Os, family members and friends enjoyed a yummy breakfast served by a friendly volunteer wait staff including:

Judy Hilgard, Diane Baldassari, Jaon

Cavanaugh, Sandy Hall,

Carolyn Rohlen, Denise Fauntleroy,

and Barb Harris. Generous platters of pancakes, eggs, sausage, orange juice,

coffee and tea were cheerfully distributed. Our reigning Milfoil Queen, Millie (a.k.a Helen

Hayhurst) assisted by Gloria Andersen asked for your donations and a chance to win a coveted

prize by answering trivia questions. There was also a cash prize won by entering the 50/50 raffle.

This year's winners were Chuck and Cindy Pesek. All proceeds were deposited into CCROA's treasury for ongoing projects including managing invasive species. We are especially appreciative of Amy and Craig Kusick, new owners of Bent's Camp, who donated their time, cooking skills, and the food, too. Thank you, Amy and Craig.



Bent's Camp owner, Craig Kusick and daughter, Mary Kay

by Helen Hayhurst

Invasive Species Update

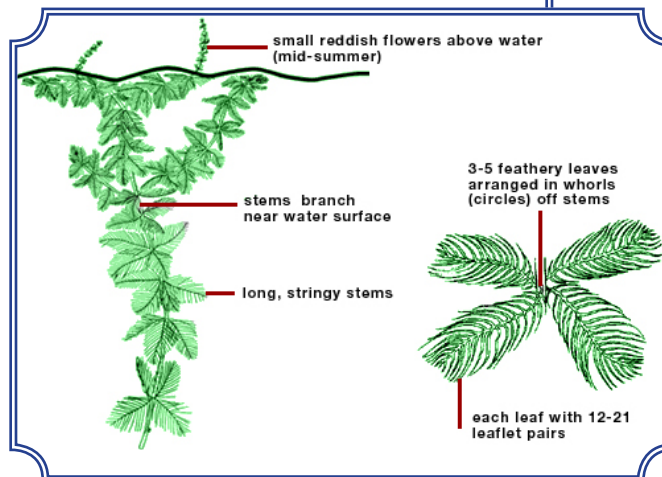
The summer of 2011 marked the second year of baseline monitoring of aquatic plants for the Cisco Chain Riparians Owners Association (CCROA) performed by the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute (SOEI) of Northland College at Ashland, WI. This year's survey work began on June 20, 2011 and continued through August 18, 2011. The lakes surveyed included: Clearwater, Little Africa, Morley, Big (including Michigan and Palmer Bays), Fishhawk, Poor, West Bay, East Bay, Mamie and Indian. Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) was once again identified on Clearwater Lake and Curly Leaf Pond Weed (CLP) was found on Fishhawk Lake. Both were in smaller amounts than the previous year (2010) and the affected areas are scheduled for chemical treatment in the spring and summer of 2012. In addition CLP was identified in Big Lake in proximity to Cisco Chain Marina. In June 2012, Northland College will begin the monitoring of Thousand Island, Clearwater and Cisco Lakes and the result of their findings will dictate appropriate treatment. Association members are invited to contact President, Kully Rohlen if they wish to review the entire sixty page assessment document produced by Northland College.

On September 7, 2011 a joint meeting comprised of CCROA Board Members, Invasive Species Control Coalition of Watersmeet (ISCCW) Board Members and a US Forest Service Representative was held. Results of an invasive species assessment that was conducted by biologists on six lakes of the Cisco Chain were presented. Regrettably, CLP was identified in Cisco Lake and EWM was found on Thousand Island Lake. Identification could mean; only one plant, a colony of six or more plants or an infestation. By definition an infestation means invasive plants on the water surface that mat tightly and prohibit motor usage. Neither survey found any evidence of an "infestation" of EWM on the Cisco Chain.

Strategies were discussed to address the removal of the invasives. CLP colonies were determined to be candidates for chemical treatment and all but one of the 28 EWM locations were discovered to only be one or two plants and were excellent candidates to be hand pulled utilizing scuba divers. Recognizing the rapidly falling water temperatures, time was of the essence in deploying divers to do the job. Jim Floriano of Duck Lake and also an ISCCW member, lent his skill as a scuba diver along with his expertise and experience in removing EWM. Along with Greg Wenzel, Poor Lake Rep, as the second scuba diver, 22 of the 28 sites were targeted for dives, leaving the remaining six shallowest sites for Ian Shackelford of the US Forest Service to remove in the following week.*

It is difficult to predict the success of this effort, however last summer EWM was found in three locations on Thousand Island Lake, the plants were removed by a diver and this year two of those locations were EWM free and the third location had only a single plant which was once again removed. Your CCROA

boaters on the spread of invasives at boat landings on the Cisco Chain. Moving forward, residents of the Cisco Chain will be a key component in a comprehensive plan in preventing the spread and treatment of invasives. Please understand that although the growth of invasives can be controlled, their complete eradication is not possible, so we must remain



Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM)

vigilant. Watch for more information and regular updates on this extremely important topic in future editions of Shore Lines.

**Special thanks to Ron VerKuilen, Shawn Jelinek, Lisa Hesse, Dick Mehlhop, Mary Congdon, and Kathy Floriano for assisting the divers and Ron VerKuilen and Vacation Land Resort for providing pontoon boats necessary to accomplish the job.*

by Greg Wenzel

is working diligently in monitoring for invasives and is developing proactive strategies to mitigate the problem of invasive species in our Chain. Previously, with assistance of ISCCW, great efforts have been made to inspect boats and educate

Annual Business Meeting

Thank you to all who attended the 2011 Annual business meeting for your Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association. This meeting was very well attended as the issue concerning the dam and its purchase was of great concern to our membership and the discussion was lively. The minutes of that meeting are as follows:

CCROA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING - JULY 14, 2011

Kully Rohlen, President, called the meeting to order at 9:35 am at Cisco Lake Resort. Board Members present include Denise Fauntleroy, David Fauntleroy, Judy Challed, Dean Challed, Bobby Warren, Wes Kiley, Tom Krautkramer, Helen Hayhurst, Gloria Andersen, Kully Rohlen, and Laurie Cooney.

Judy Challed, Secretary, read the minutes from the 2010 Annual Business meeting. James Glaze moved to approve the minutes. John Hobart seconded. Motion passed.

David Fauntleroy, Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's Report. The balance as of 6/30/11 totals \$126,035.48. Ed Tennant moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Dick Barney seconded. Motion passed.

Denise Fauntleroy gave the Membership Report. We currently have 412 members. Denise hopes for 100 percent membership and encourages all to get their neighbors to join. She is sending a binder around so members can update their information. Laurie Cooney moved we accept

the Membership Report. James Sweeney seconded. Motion passed.

Kully Rohlen opened nominations for vacant positions. Omar Shabaz nominated Bob McGuffin for Vice-president. Frank Stanek moved nominations for Vice-president be closed. Joan Cavanaugh seconded. Motion carried. Ron Verkuilen



nominated Greg Wenzel as Poor Lake representative. James Glaze moved the current board members remain the same for next year. Fred Fass, seconded. Motions passed.

Kully Rohlen announced that numerous meetings had been held since the impending dam sale was announced. He and Wes Kiley feel there are few options if we do not control the dam. FERC needs to give permission to the buyer. We are looking for a partner that FERC would be likely to approve so we could lease the dam for a minimal charge from that governmental agency. A paper ballot will be mailed shortly after the picnic on July 16, 2011 asking the membership to give the board permission to seek a reasonable solution so the

CCROA keeps control of the dam. An approximation of our yearly cost would be \$2,000 for a dam master to visit and log information. A required five year inspection would run about \$5,000. A fund raiser could be held to provide money to be held for these expenses.

Causes for concern include American Rivers which seeks to allow water to run free of dams, a private individual with financial interests, or DNR looking to increase water flow to facilitate fishing in the river on the other side of the dam. Others cited various examples of dams which have been removed. Louise Sweeney asked how much money would be needed to go in to the trust. Kully and Wes felt \$200,000 would be sufficient. David Palmquist suggested possible installation of a turbine for electricity. Carolyn Rohlen questioned why a government entity would not want to partner with us if 25% of their income comes from CCROA. Other comments and concerns were shared, but the over powering feeling was we must do everything possible to keep control of the dam. Kully and Wes are optimistic that Watersmeet Township will agree to partner seeing it to be in their best interest.

Mary Congdon moved to adjourn at 11:05 am. Seconded, James Sweeney. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Challed, Secretary

Membership Update

In keeping with bringing our membership records up to date, your Board has decided to change the due date for CCROA annual fee. Your dues will now be payable on January 1st and will correspond with the calendar year. If your dues are not received by March 1st, your Shore Lines newsletter will be discontinued so please stay current. We are hoping this change will make your yearly bookkeeping easier. If you have any questions regarding your membership status or address record, please contact Denise Fauntleroy, Membership Chair at 630-881-7253 or by e-mail at fishhawk0106@gmail.com.

E-MAIL UPDATES FROM CCROA

Due to a large number of CCROA members requesting information regarding the status of the Cisco Dam negotiations, we will start sending e-mail updates from our new e-mail address regarding the dam purchase, invasive species and other breaking news, please send an e-mail to the following address: CCROA50@gmail.com. Your personal information will not be shared with any outside organization or business. In addition, we are looking for an interested volunteer to monitor this address and to help send out updates. If you can perform this task, please contact Denise Fauntleroy at 630-881-7252.

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and operational detail, regarding ongoing management of the dam, a second follow up letter was sent for clarification. It is true that at one time the dam was for sale by UPPCO for \$1 but that changed in early 2011 when UPPCO was acquired by Integrys. As Integrys has a policy of divesting itself of all non power producing dams, Cisco dam and its adjacent 10 acres of property was offered to CCROA for the sum of \$15,000. In order to manage all funds collected and dedicated to any and all expenses incurred, a separate not-for-profit company would be formed as a subsidiary of the Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association. This company would have its own officers with funds kept separate from CCROA. The following proposed conditions would apply to a five member board:

- Chief Executive to be appointed by the CCROA Board
- Secretary/Treasurer to be appointed by the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners
- Dam operations employee to be appointed by the CCROA Board

- Member of a law firm elected by the dam company board
- Bank trust officer elected by the dam company board

The funds currently being raised for the dam would be placed in a trust account managed within the trust department of a local FDIC insured financial institution. The trust agreement will be written so that its principal could never be eroded by either the CCROA or the dam company board. Income could only be used to pay for dam operating and maintenance costs. These costs are estimated to be approximately \$6,000 to \$10,000 per year. Unfortunately, we are in a very poor economic climate that is severely impacts insured income percentage. Subsequently CCROA is in a position that requires raising a sum that is larger than first anticipated. When considering your donation to the CCROA Dam Fund, please be reminded of the loss that would occur should we not gain control of our destiny and the dam were opened. Our shore lines would be forever changed, property value would be greatly affected and our legacy to posterity would surely diminish. Since our Association is a

not-for-profit entity all donations are tax deductible.

As evidenced by this article, CCROA's acquisition of Cisco dam has been and will continue to be a laborious process requiring much patience and perseverance. Many thanks are to be afforded to the Board, especially to Kully and Wes, who have worked tirelessly and diligently to bring us to this point. As facts in this matter can change very quickly, it is nearly impossible to communicate details as they occur. We have begun the process of establishing an e-mail address for CCROA CCROA50@gmail.com so that questions regarding the dam or any other CCROA business can be submitted and answered in a timely matter. Meanwhile contact phone numbers for Kully Rohlen, Wes Kiley, Bob McGuffin and all board members are available on the back cover of Shore Lines. With the challenges now at hand, and with new information coming so quickly, we need more than ever to communicate in a positive manner. Member's questions are always welcomed.

*by Kully Rohlen
and Gloria Andersen*

Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association Membership Application 2011 - 2012

NEW RENEWAL

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Spouse _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone _____ e-mail Address _____
 Name of Lake _____ Lake Address _____
 Lake Phone _____ Lake e-mail Address _____

Dues are \$25.00 per year. Advance payments are welcomed. Just indicate how many years in advance you wish to pay _____ Amount Enclosed: _____
 Lifetime Membership is only \$450.00. Amount Enclosed: _____
 Amount of invasive species donation: _____ Total Amount Enclosed: _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CISCO CHAIN RIPARIAN OWNERS ASSN.

MAIL TO: CCROA P.O. BOX 687 WATERSMEET, MI 49969-0687

Be a Volunteer! Here is an opportunity to join in and make a difference!

Officer or Lake Representative _____ Picnic Volunteer _____ (only takes one hour of your time)
 Seasonal Committee _____ Educate at Boat Ramps _____