

SHORE LINES

Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association *"Promoting Safe Fun on Clean Lakes"*
www.ciscochainroa.com email: ccroa49969@gmail.com



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We Are Not Buying the Cisco Dam

By Bob McGuffin

Now that everyone has read that sentence twice, some explanation is in order. Before my involvement with the CCROA began in 2010, your Association was approached by the Upper Peninsula Power Company (UPPCO). They wanted to divest their company of the Cisco Dam for various reasons-mostly because that while expensive to operate, restrictions in the Dam license gave UPPCO very little ability to draw down the Cisco Chain to feed their hydro generating operations downstream. As the principle benefactors of the Dam, they saw our Association as the entity most likely to purchase the Dam. A sales contract was consummated, and the issue was brought before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for approval where it sat. And sat.

Fast forward nearly a decade. FERC finally releases the Dam from the operating license. In the ensuing time, nearly all the principles that crafted that sales agreement have changed. New CCROA board. New attorneys. New ownership structure at UPPCO. Your new board, along with the new legal counsel takes a hard look at what we are buying and why. This purchase would be a massive undertaking for a volunteer organization, so we want to be sure that we are doing it for the right reasons and the right way. As we would come to find out, we were wrong on both counts.

Let's look at the REASON for buying the Dam. Our need for the Dam is simple- make the Cisco Chain navigable. In other words, connect the 15 lakes so we can move from lake to lake. Without the Dam, we are essentially stuck on our own individual lake. This, of course, isn't a concern of UPPCO. Why would it be? It turns out, however, that this was a VERY big concern to the Dam's prior owner- the Marathon Mills Paper Company who sold the Dam to one of UPPCO's predecessor companies The Copper District Power Company in 1937. Marathon raised the level of the Cisco Chain expressly FOR navigation, so they could float logs around to the rail spur for removal. As it turns out, this has been done since approximately 1901 by a different company- the Brooks and Ross Lumber Company. All of this raising and navigating over nearly 40 years had created a "new normal" for the Cisco Chain- so much so that the requirement for maintaining this "new normal" was written right into the Warranty Deed when the Copper District Power Company bought the dam in 1937- requiring that the new owner "...maintain substantially the present water level of the water in said Cisco Lake and the Chain of Lakes connected hereto, insofar as it is physically possible to do so." It is here that we find UPPCO's obligation to maintain the



Sunset on the Cisco Chain, courtesy of Mary Congdon

present water levels in our Chain of Lakes. This obligation was tested and affirmed 2 years later by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin in 1939. Riparian owners complained about fluctuating water levels by the Power Company and the Commission found in favor of the Riparian Owners and that the Power Company, when buying the Dam, did not buy any right to use the Dam for any purpose other than to maintain the water levels of the Cisco Chain. These facts drive us to believe that UPPCO has a continuing obligation to own and operate the Dam expressly for navigation thus, making our need to own the Dam unnecessary.

So now we and our legal counsel believe that we do not need to purchase the Dam. This, of course, does not diminish UPPCO's desire to sell the Dam for at the end of the day, the Dam is a liability, both legally and financially, that they want to get off their books. Towards that end, we must be ready to act to protect the Cisco Chain should UPPCO find some way to get out of their legal obligations. This brings us to how a Dam should be bought the RIGHT WAY. The CCROA should not own the dam. Period. Gogebic County would be the proper entity to own the dam. While we are a volunteer organization whose existence depends on people willing to give up their free time, the County is a permanent organization. The removal of the Dam would do unthinkable things to our property values; however, the County also has a significant stake in our properties as our taxes fund a large portion of its budget. Lastly, and most importantly, the County has, thru the Drain Commissioner, the legal authority to establish a Legal Lake Level and assess ALL properties that benefit from the Dam across state lines. If-and this is a BIG IF- it was to become necessary to purchase the Dam, it should be Gogebic County that purchases the Dam- not us.

We Are Not Buying the Dam (continued)

By Bob McGuffin

Finally, we get to the issue of the Dam Fund. I cannot express my admiration to the members that contributed \$353,000 towards the Dam purchase. We asked for your support and many stepped up. When we asked for donations, we promised that they would ONLY be used for the Dam purchase and we have kept our word. Getting to this point, however, was not inexpensive. We spent around 10% of the fund on attorney fees- money it turns out that was VERY well spent. It is now time to dissolve the fund. Our attorneys have suggested we give our donors the following four choices for their donation:

1. Unrestrict their donation- The CCORA can use the funds for any purpose.
2. Change the restriction- The CCROA can use their donation for our Lake Management Program
3. Transfer their money (less the 10% spent) to the ISCCW- another 501(c)3 organization closely aligned with our mission. We will take care of the transfer.

4. Get your donation back(less the 10% spent). Please be aware that if you receive a refund, you MAY have to amend your tax return for the year in which you donated.

Everyone that donated to our Dam Fund will receive a letter in the mail in the coming weeks explaining the process. There will be a tear-off portion of the letter which will allow you to make your selection and send it back to us for processing. I know I speak for the entire Board when I say 'Thank-you' for supporting this effort and for your patience during this process! It has been a long road that has consumed many hours of our personal time to get to this point. Be sure to attend our annual meeting on July 14 where this will be discussed and get your questions answered.

Thank you,
Bob McGuffin

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING AND "FREE FOR ALL" PICNIC ON JULY 14, 2018

The Annual CCROA Business Meeting and "Free for All" Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 14, 2018 at the Cisco Lake Bar Pavilion. The meeting will be held from 10 am to 12 noon. The "Free for All" picnic will immediately follow from 12 noon to 1:30 pm.

At the annual meeting you are able to not only hear firsthand about CCROA activities, business and ongoing efforts that are focused on maintaining the pristine nature of the Cisco Chain of Lakes, but are able to ask questions and express concerns regarding the Cisco Chain and CCROA business.

At the "Free for All" picnic lunch, CCROA members and their guests will enjoy jumbo hot dogs, chips, selections from a cheese tray, a yummy veggie tray with dip and of course dessert!! There will be 2 raffles held. The ever popular 50/50 raffle and a special prize raffle. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy lunch, see old friends and meet new members.

The annual meeting and picnic provide the opportunity to meet the board members and lake representatives. The board and lake reps welcome your input and ideas. Drive your car, walk, ride a bike or come by boat to the Annual CCROA Meeting and stay for the "Free for All" picnic!!



2017 "Free for All" picnic lunch



Thank you Barb Aarud and family for representing the CCROA!! See Snippets for 4th info

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES UPDATE - SPRING, 2018

By: Bob McGuffin

For the last several years, I have used this venue to educate and inform our membership about Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), most specifically Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). I have detailed where it is and what we are doing about it and why our AIS work is important. By now, I would hope that message has gotten through clearly. When I took over as your President last year, I decided to use my time to do whatever it took to fix two critical problems with our AIS program. The first of these problems is that in Michigan, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) requires permission from the Riparian owner before any AIS work can be done on their lake bottom. As our EWM problem has grown- now in 7 of our 15 lakes- this requirement has become increasingly burdensome on our volunteer organization. We simply cannot continue to solicit consent door to door or through the mail as we have done in the past.

The other issue we face is a stable, equitable funding solution to paying for this work. Presently, we pay for this program with a combination of voluntary donations and grants. While we always appreciate the thoughtfulness and generosity of our donors, voluntary donations are not predictable and stable. Moreover, this approach relies on the generosity of a few to pay for work that all property owners on the Cisco Chain benefit from. As far as grants go, we face problems here also. First, grants are not free. They require some form of "match" on our part- usually around 50%. Second, securing a grant is not a given. We sometimes apply for a grant that is ultimately not awarded to us. Lastly, the grant programs we use are under an enormous amount of budgetary pressure which threatens their very existence in some cases.

Thankfully, there exists a solution that addresses BOTH problems. The Public Improvements Act 188 of 1954 allows us, though Watersmeet Township, to set up a Special Assessment District that will encompass the entirety of the Michigan side of the Cisco Chain. There is a similar process to be had on the Wisconsin side which we will set up once the Michigan side is complete thus capturing ALL properties on the Cisco Chain. This District will allow us to shift funding from voluntary donations supported by the few, to compulsory assessments through the winter tax bill supported by all. Here is how the District would work:

In a given year, we expect to spend \$45,000 on surveys, hand removal, and chemical treatment for EWM Chain-wide. We have grants which will cover 50% of this work leaving an out of pocket cost of \$22,500 for the year. We have around 800 non-governmental owned properties on the Cisco Chain. That \$22,500 would be split evenly between those 800 properties- each being assessed \$28.12 that year. If we expect less work in a given year, the assessment would be less. If we need more, the assessment would be higher, **but it would be capped at \$100**. Another fact worth mentioning is that this District is not permanent. It would be set up for a defined period- 20 years for example. After that time, the District dissolves and we would have an opportunity to assess its effectiveness and decide if we want to establish a new District.

The other VERY important benefit of this District is that it is recognized by the MDNR and satisfies the consent requirement before they can issue a permit for AIS work. No longer will we have to go door to door or send out mailings that get ignored in order to perform our AIS work. AIS on the Cisco Chain is a public problem that affects ALL of us. This District treats AIS like the public problem that it is and gives us Chain-wide permission to do our work. Note that this is not a requirement on the Wisconsin side.

Clearly, I cannot cover all questions and address all concerns in this space. Therefore there will be additional information sent through the mail as well as a series of public meetings leading up to the establishment of this District. The times and locations for the meetings will be in the mailings, as well as emails from the CCROA and in the local paper.

It is critical that we support this District. I know there will be a (hopefully) small segment of owners on the Chain that feel that AIS isn't their problem or that someone else should pay for it. I cannot overcome that mindset. I am appealing to the thoughtful majority that understands the impact that AIS has on their property and their ability to enjoy it. As always, thank you for your help and support of our mission against AIS.

Local Roadwork...The Gogebic County Road Commission plans for summer road work on 1000 Island Lake Road are scheduled to begin June 4, 2018. Northeast Asphalt will be mobilizing its equipment. This phase will involve paving 6 miles of roadway starting at Roddis Road and going north on 1000 Island Lake Road. The road will be open to traffic and completion of the paving is expected to be July 3, 2018. Of course, it is all weather dependent.

Phase 3 of the 1000 Island Road work involves installing a new box culvert at the Middle Branch of the Ontonagon River. This work will require 1000 Island Lake Road to be closed for the entire project and traffic will be detoured as in the past. This work is not expected to be scheduled until late fall this year or maybe summer, 2019. Right now the proposal has been sent into the state for Obligation Funding. Work cannot be scheduled until they make sure the funding money is there from the Federal government.

Preventative maintenance is scheduled for Cisco Lake Road from US 2 south for about 3 ½ miles. Chip sealing will be done. No timeframe as of yet. Indian Village Road is also scheduled for chip sealing.

MDOT will be chip sealing & cape sealing US2 starting at Stagecoach Road and heading west. M28 at the Jackson Creek Bridge will be closed this summer while a new bridge is constructed. The Jackson Creek Bridge is 5 miles east of Wakefield, MI.

If you have been driving on the gravel portion of Cisco Lake Road, you'll have noticed the cut timber on both sides of the road. The county cleared dead trees and trees that were too close to the roadway. This was done to open up the roadway to more air and sunlight allowing the roadbed to dry faster in springtime. If you are considering harvesting some firewood, you must contact the property owner for permission

July 15, 2017 ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

By CCROA Collaboration

The 2017 CCROA Annual Business Meeting was held on July 15, 2017, at the Cisco Lake Resort Pavilion. The meeting was called to order at 10:07am by President Greg Wenzel. First off, Greg made a few announcements related to raffles, door prize and CCROA clothing.

The 2016 Annual Meeting minutes were read and approved. Following that the winner of the door prize was announced. Don Doran won a bait bucket filled with goodies, donated by Wilderness Bay Resort.

Next item on the agenda, as in years past, was the Cisco Dam; however, this year there was news to be heard. On January 19, 2017, FERC released the dam and sent the CCROA notice of such. The CCROA has new legal counsel, Kendricks Bordeaux Law Firm of Marquette, Michigan. Board members met with them to represent the CCROA as the effort to purchase the Dam moves ahead. In March, our lawyers met with UPPCO to discuss the FERC ruling that released the Dam.

On April 27, 2017, Board members met with UPPCO and the state dam inspector. Our attorneys found a ruling from 1939 by Wisconsin Public Service Commission that appears to be still in effect. The ruling basically states that the Cisco Chain lake level is set for navigation only not for power. In late spring, 2017, a phone conference was conducted with Greg Wenzel, Bob McGuffin, David Fauntleroy, Tom Krautkramer and the new attorneys. The main goal at this time is to make sure things are done properly, fairly, and equitably regarding expenses required to operate the dam for perpetuity and protect our interests.

Questions and discussions ensued. Areas of concern were, cost of attorneys; maintenance costs of the dam; the lake level; who will take care of the dam; how will the operational expenses be funded; would the donors to the Dam Fund get their money back if we don't purchase the dam. All questions were discussed and answered. David Fauntleroy has kept impeccable records, if the purchase fails, all donors will be refunded their donation, less expenses accrued during the effort.

The incoming President's duties will be extensive. Greg asked for members to volunteer their time to ease the burden. Greg acknowledged and thanked the board and many people for all their help, hard work and dedication, especially to past president Wes Kiley for his vision, knowledge and effort in the endeavor to purchase the dam.

Vice-President, Bob McGuffin presented his EWM/AIS report. Big news for Big Lake! A little less than 10 acres has been treated, costing \$14,000. Hand pulling EWM will be done on Lindsley, Morley and Thousand Island Lakes. He stated that we received grant money on a match basis. Bob thanked everyone for their donations to the Lake Management Fund helping significantly in the AIS fight and urged continuing support.

Visit the CCROA website at www.ciscochainroa.com for more Cisco Chain information

David Fauntleroy gave the Treasurer's Report. Financially, the CCROA is in good shape with \$460,602.39 for total liabilities and equity. Our funds are invested to conserve principal, earning about 3 ½%. A motion was made and seconded to approve the report and all were in favor.

Linda Hammer gave the Membership Report. The Association has 358 members, up from 351 the previous year. Linda thanked the Lake Reps for distributing the door hangers. The door hangers resulted in a good return of AIS permission to treat forms as well as membership renewals. She encouraged members to talk to neighbors and new people to join the CCROA. A motion to accept the report was made, seconded and all were in favor.

Election of Officers was held. The new board is

President	Bob McGuffin
Vice President	Omar Shabaz
Secretary	Sue Anderson
Treasurer	David Fauntleroy
New Lake Reps	
Roy Knoth	West Bay
Mark Johnson	Lindsley Lake
Eugene Clark	1000 Island North
Dean Stanton	Member at Large

Old Business... Greg introduced Denise Fauntleroy. Denise works for ISCCW and gave an update on what has been going on at ISCCW. CCROA and ISCCW work together on all EWM/AIS issues. Biologist, Barb Gajewski, from Many Waters LLC spoke about the ongoing battle with AIS and its early detection. Barb has seven grants that are incoming and outgoing.

New Business... "Shoreline Workshop" is being held at the Lac Vieux Desert Casino on July 28, 2017. The cost was \$60 and the CCROA would reimburse members for the fee after they attended the workshop. "Let's find a balance between the two, property rights and shoreline preservation.

A quick reminder - please make sure children wear PFDs when near water. Greg gave his final goodbye as CCROA President thanking everyone he worked with, especially to his wife Mary Jo for her support these last 4 years. Plaques were presented to outgoing board members and lake reps. A big thank you was given to Jim Boehm, owner of the Cisco Bar for the use of the pavilion.

At 12:04pm, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved.



WATERSMEET FREE "DUMP DAY"

By CCROA Collaboration

Reminder to Watersmeet taxpayers... for 2018, Watersmeet Township is offering a free "dump day". This year you will be able to choose your "dump day" when it works best for you! **On the day you plan do take advantage of this, you must first go to the township office and pick up a voucher from the secretary.** This voucher is a requirement in order to dispose of items either not normally allowed or requires additional fees. If you plan to dispose of items that you need help unloading, you must make prior arrangements with the township, allowing scheduling of help. Call the township office and advise them of the date and approximate time. **You still must stop** in the Township Office and obtain your voucher before arriving at the transfer station. This new method will hopefully cut down on wait time along with making it more convenient for everyone.

As in the past, there are some restrictions. You are allowed 7 tires and your "load" may consist of only one pickup box and a normal utility trailer. Nothing oversized.

MORE "FREE" FUN

By CCROA Collaboration

In addition to free fishing weekends, both Wisconsin and Michigan have expanded their free weekends

Wisconsin Free for Everyone Weekend is being held June 2nd & 3rd, 2018. In addition to its being a free fishing weekend, Wisconsin has added free ATV/UTV riding on public trails open to such uses, free entry to State Parks and Forests and free DNR trails

For details visit [Wisconsin Free Fun For Everyone](#)

Michigan is offering a free fishing weekend on June 9th & 10th, 2018. This year in addition to free fishing, Michigan is also offering free ORV weekends on June 9th & 19th and August 18th & 19th, 2018.

For details visit

[Michigan Free Fishing Weekend](#)

[Michigan Free ORV Weekend](#)

Note: Membership year starts January 1st and ends on December 31st

Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association Membership Application 2018

NEW _____ RENEWAL _____ DONATION _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Spouse _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ e-mail Address _____

Cell Phone _____ Additional e-mail Address _____

Name of Lake _____ Lake Address _____

Dues are \$25.00 per year. Advance payments are welcomed. Just indicate how many years in advance you wish to pay

Number of years _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Lifetime Membership is only \$450.00. Amount Enclosed _____

Amount of General Fund Donation _____

Amount of Lake Management (formerly AIS) Donation: _____

Amount for Walleye Stocking Fund: _____ 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! Join Us and Make a Difference!!!

Officer or Lake Representative ___ Picnic Volunteer ___

Seasonal Committee ___ Educate at Boat Ramps ___ Special Projects ___

Board Members & Lake Representatives' Contact Information

President: Bob McGuffin 630-280-9542 ualav8@hotmail.com	Big Lake North & Morley Lake: Tom Krautkramer 906-358-0469	Lindsley Lake: Mark Johnson 970-948-6151 skyisle@sopris.net	Members-at-Large: Jack Erhart 906-358-9969
Vice President: Omar Shabaz 630-664-5678 mshabaz@ameritech.net	Big Lake South: Ann Rapp 715-547-6073	Mamie Lake: OPEN	Paul Lucas 906-358-4767
Secretary: Susan Anderson 906-358-9820	Cisco Lake: Jay Sweney 715-833-1021 sweneycr@yahoo.com	Poor Lake: Rod Brost 906-358-4481	David Neumann 906-358-0159
Treasurer: David Fauntleroy 630-533-7010	Clearwater Lake: Helen Hayhurst 906-358-4125 hnhayhurst@gmail.com	1000 Island Lake N: Eugene Clark emclark1223@gmail.com	Dean Stanton deanscar54@yahoo.com
Membership: Linda Hammer 906-250-0902 kittyisland0500@gmail.com	East Bay Lake: Bob Warren robertfwarren@me.com	1000 Island S: Joan Cavanaugh angel5508@aol.com	Shore Lines Editor: Linda Hammer 906-250-0902 kittyisland0500@gmail.com
Parliamentarian: Greg Wenzel 414-581-5444	Fish Hawk Lake: Dean Challed 906-358-4260	West Bay Lake: Roy Knoth 715-547-3286 rknoth7258@gmail.com	Webmaster: Gary Ebert 906-358-4246

SNIPPETS

Watersmeet Township Transfer Station
8 am to 4 pm Monday, Tuesday & Thursday thru Saturday
Closed on Wednesday
9 am – 12 noon on Sunday (June 14 – August 28, 2018)

Land O'Lakes Collection & Recycling Center
Tuesday 8 am – 3 pm
Thursday 12 noon – 6 pm
Saturday 8 am – 4 pm
Sunday 9 am – 12 noon (Memorial weekend to September 30, 2017)

Long time fishing guide, Al Knutson, passed away on January 7, 2018. Many on the Cisco Chain will miss his smiling face.

For those interested, Al's celebration will be held on June 23rd from 1pm to 4pm at Bent's Camp.

Below are the website addresses and phone numbers for Watersmeet Township & the Town of Land O'Lakes –

Watersmeet Township
www.watersmeet.us
906-358-4501

Town of Land O'Lakes
<http://townoflandolakes.com>
715-547-3255

Check the CCROA website regularly. The website has a wealth of information, including detailed reports on the Dam, Invasive species, past newsletters and what is and can be done as well as links to other information sites.

You are also able to donate to various funds online -the easy way! At the bottom right of the website click "Donations" and follow the online prompts. Thank you.


www.ciscochainroa.com

Around Town Events-Land O'Lakes

 4th of July Fireworks – July 3, 2018 10:15 pm at the Airport
Gates open at 5pm, Food & Refreshments will be available
Salute to the 4th Parade & Picnic July 4, 2018 –
Parade starts at noon.
Picnic immediately following the Parade at the Town Park Pavilion

Art Impressions – July 28, 2018 9 am – 3 pm

Around Town Events-Watersmeet

 June 30, 2017 for the 4th of July Celebration!!!!
Parade celebrating the 4 starts at 2 pm
Picnic at the park immediately following the parade
Fireworks will begin at dusk on June 30, 2017

Senior coffee and get together at the Watersmeet Community Center from 9:00 to 11:00 am on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month.
Senior meals are available at the Roadhouse Grill in Watersmeet