

SHORE LINES

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



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Volume Number 59 Issue 1

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Bob McGuffin

I hope everyone has enjoyed their spring. If you have, you obviously were not up north! This spring has been one for the record books-literally! We are on pace to break the all-time wettest May set in 1973! Hopefully we will dry out and warm up!

Before I get into my message, I want to make everyone aware of a change at the CCROA. For nearly a decade, I have run the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program. My duties as president prevent me from giving the AIS program the attention that it needs. Therefore, Eugene Clark will be taking over that position. His involvement with the ISCCW make him the ideal person for the job as he can coordinate directly with that organization as we work together to protect the Cisco Chain from AIS.

When I took over as President, I wanted to solve one of the greatest threats to the success of our AIS abatement program. Previously, we funded our work through a series of voluntary donations. For years, we had great success with raising the funds we needed through our generous members. Back then, we had AIS- specifically Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) - on only a few lakes and the scope of our work was not as big. Presently, we have EWM on 7 of our 15 lakes and that number is expected to rise. As our annual expenditures rose, we needed a better way to fund this critical program.

Last year, we undertook the first of two steps to solve this problem. We established a Special Assessment District through Watersmeet Township. In doing so, we are allowed to assess all 571 Michigan waterfront parcels equally for our AIS work. This District, which will exist for 20 years, also solves a problem unique to the Michigan side. No longer do we need to seek individual consent for our work which was an enormous burden!



This year, we will continue this process and work to establish a Lake District across all 186 of our Wisconsin properties. Unlike the 20-year Michigan Special Assessment District, the Cisco Chain Lake District will be a permanent solution to our funding issues. Additionally, unlike the Michigan side which is very restrictive in what we can use the monies for, the Wisconsin Lake District funds can be used for other important projects such as water quality monitoring.

Properties affected by this Lake District should be receiving two separate mailings- one from the CCROA explaining the need for this step and one from the Town of Land O Lakes inviting property owners to participate in a public meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 11 at 6pm at the town offices in Land O Lakes. At this meeting, there will be a presentation as well as an opportunity to have your questions answered and your concerns addressed.

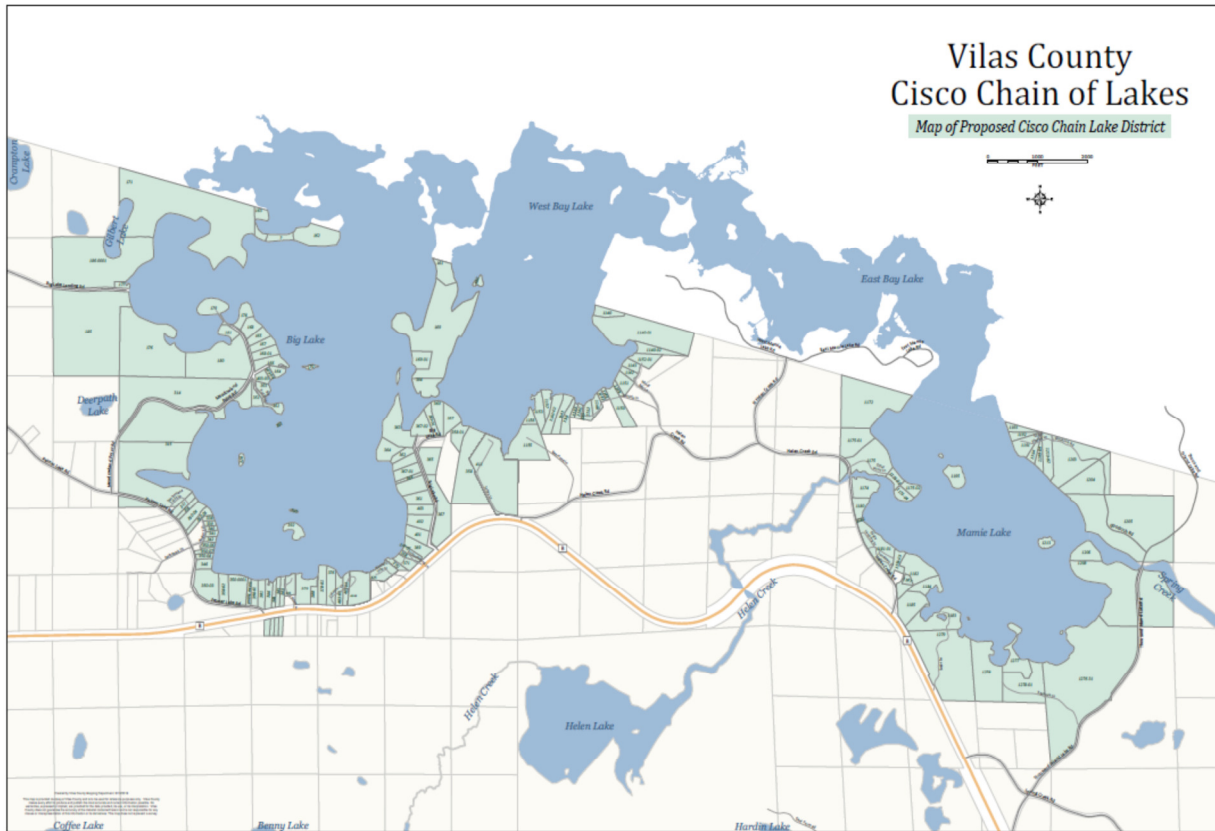
Maps showing the proposed properties to be included are on page 2

REMEMBER TO CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY AND DISPOSE!! Clean boats, trailers and equipment; drain live wells, bilges and all water; dry boats and equipment; dispose of unwanted bait in the trash...do not throw it into the lake...It's the Law! To help stop the introduction and spread of AIS (aquatic invasive species) the State of Michigan past laws effective in 2019, that require wall watercraft and/or trailers are free of AIS prior to launching; watercraft must drain all drain plus and drain all water from bilges, ballast tanks and live wells prior to transporting; unused bait must NOT be released into the water.

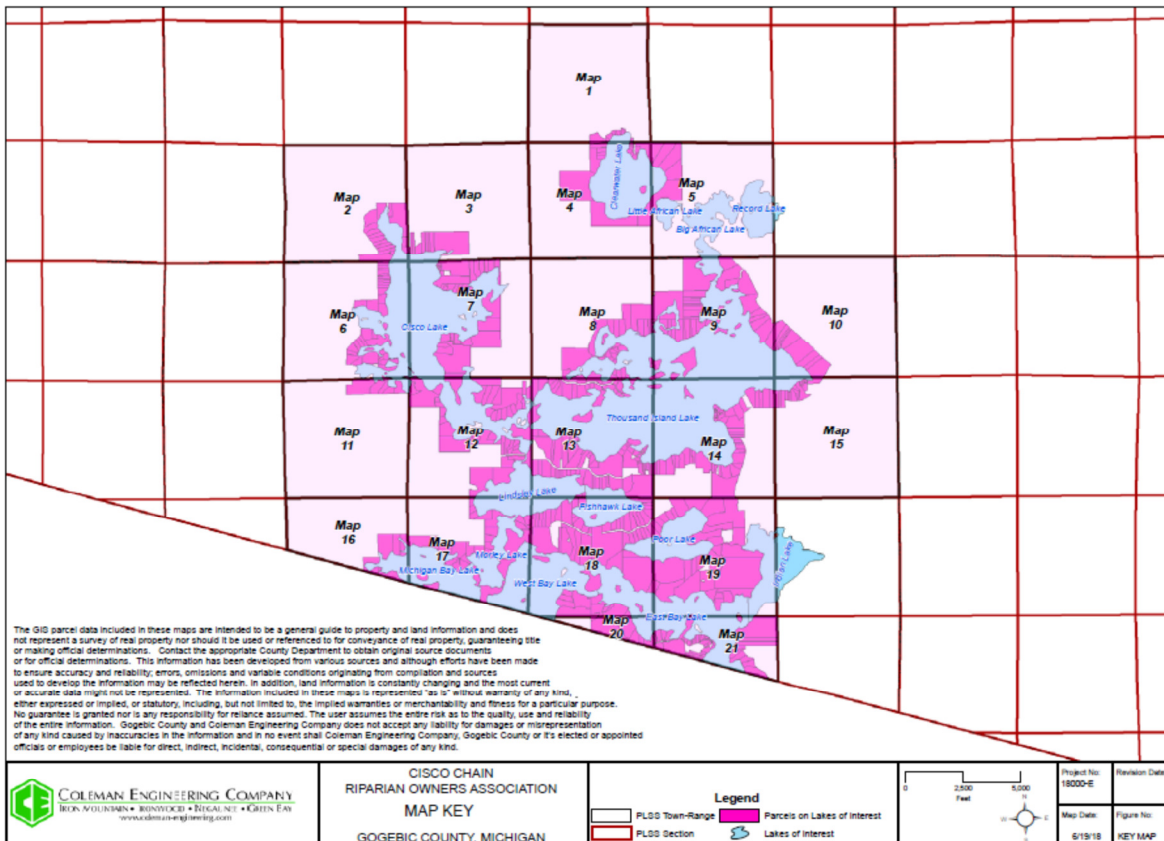
CCROA MEMBERSHIP IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER!!!

Now that there is a Special Assessment District for the Michigan side of the chain and we are working on establishing a Lake District for the Wisconsin side, you might wonder "why do we need the CCROA"? The districts will provide financial support; however, the CCROA will continue to provide the manpower required to manage our aquatic invasive species abatement program. The CCROA has successfully established and maintained optimal water levels on the Chain to avoid navigational hazards and shoreline erosion. We have established important partnerships with professionals to oversee lake surveys and management in order to plan for long term health of the Cisco Chain of Lakes.

Membership renewal notices were mailed to members whose membership expired in 2018 and 2017. If you haven't done so, please renew today. If you would like to check on your membership, email us at ccroa49969@gmail.com or call Linda at 906-250-0902. Thank you!!!



Above is a map showing the Michigan Special Assessment District which was set up last year. You will note that any government-owned land is not included on the Michigan side while it is on the Wisconsin side.



After the establishment of the Cisco Chain Lake District, each privately-held parcel on the Cisco Chain of Lakes will participate equally in the funding of our AIS program. I look forward to seeing a full house at the June 11th meeting at the Land O'Lakes Township Hall at 6pm and the upcoming annual meeting on July 20, 2019!!!

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM FOR 2019

By: Eugene Clark

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Hello CCROA members. I am Eugene Clark. My wife, Susan, and I live full-time on the north shore of Thousand Island Lake. I am the Lake Representative for the north shore. Bob recently asked me to assist in the management of our AIS programs, and I volunteered a “yes”! So I will be working with Bob and Omar, hopefully to lighten some of their work load. I am also on the Board for the ISCCW, a partner organization that focuses on maintaining the quality of our waterways in the Watersmeet Township and border lakes. Both organizations coordinate joint efforts on the Cisco Chain. Many of you are members of the ISCCW. Please continue your support of both the ISCCW and the CCROA. We all treasure the pristine nature of the Cisco Chain, which is why we belong to these two associations and volunteer time on the Chain.

The 2019 season is officially underway. Our efforts can be divided into the following categories:

- Aquatic Vegetation Monitoring via the Point Intercept method: \$7,000
- Water Quality Measurement: \$4,900
- AIS Surveys & Control: \$37,500
- Boat inspection/washing at public landings: \$10,800 (ISCCW budget)
- Educational activities: \$6,300 (ISCCW budget)

Funding comes from several grants that require participatory amounts, your contributions to the CCROA, and the newly established taxing district for the Chain. We receive funding from the UPPCO/Bond Fall Implementation Team, Wisconsin DNR, and US Forestry RAC grants.

Aquatic Vegetation Monitoring: monitor in-lake habitat features, substrate type (sand, rock etc.), and depth that may serve as indicators of ecosystem change and stability over time. The WDNR suggests repeating these surveys approximately every 5 years. Clearwater, Poor and Indian Lakes will be surveyed via the point intercept method this year.

Water Quality: sample basic water quality parameters useful to monitor for water quality condition and include spring and summer total phosphorous, chlorophyll a, transparency and dissolved oxygen on all 15 lakes of the Chain. In addition, volunteers on the Chain are taking periodic Secchi Disk readings to create a database on water clarity.

AIS Surveys & Control: from early detection surveys, seasonal monitoring, and then physical removal of Eurasian Water Milfoil and Purple Loosestrife, we are limiting the AIS footprint on the Chain. EWM is currently in 7 lakes and a channel: West Bay, Big, Morley, TIL, channel from Lindsley to Cisco, Poor, Indian, and Fishhawk.

The ISCCW currently maintains 4 boat washing units and employs 3 people for their operation. One unit is in use at Northern Edge Sport & Marine. Two units are largely in use at the Thousand Island Lake and Cisco Lake public landings. **The CCROA has its Clean Boats/Clean Waters** program with the WDNR on the Wisconsin side at Palmer Bay in Big Lake. This provides resources for boat inspections and education at the Palmer Bay boat landing in Big Lake.

Educational activities: The ISCCW employs Denise Fauntleroy as their educational and public relations manager. Her job is to increase awareness of AIS through a variety of activities: programs at the Ottawa Visitors Center, presence at community events in Land o’ Lakes and Watersmeet, a mobile sign at the BP gas station in Land O’ Lakes, programs with MSU Extension, meeting with lake associations, developing brochures and marketing materials, attending conferences, and others.

The above programs evince a comprehensive data-driven plan to document baseline condition in the Chain, identify problems quickly, and implement remediation and control measures. We cannot guarantee that we can completely eliminate EWM, but we can control and mitigate its presence. Complicating this effort is the fact that the Chain straddles the Wisconsin-Michigan border, so any measures have to meet different regulatory and permitting laws. So while life on the Chain appears serene and peaceful (as it should), remember the complex, integrated and coordinated efforts that strive to keep it so. Your continued support is important!

COME ONE, COME ALL TO THE CCROA ANNUAL MEETING & “FREE FOR ALL” PICNIC ON JULY 20, 2019

The annual CCROA Business Meeting and “Free for All” Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 20, 2019 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, cheese trays, veggie trays and dessert! There will be 2 raffles held; the ever popular 50/50 raffle and a special prize raffle. Meet the CCROA board, see old friends and meet new friends. Drive your car, walk, ride a bike or come by boat to the CCROA Annual Meeting and stay for the “Free for All” picnic!!!!

2018 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING REPORT

By CCROA Collaboration

The 2018 CCROA Annual Business Meeting was held on July 14, 2018, at the Cisco Lake Resort Pavilion. The meeting was called to order at 10:03am by President Bob McGuffin

The July 15, 2017 Annual Meeting minutes were read. Tom Krautkramer asked to have the name of Jim Boehm added as the owner of the Cisco Bar. The minutes were then approved.

ISCCW Educator, Denise Fauntleroy, gave an update on ISCCW work over the past year. ISCCW has 3 boat washers and Mark Reinert is the ISCCW's Cisco Chain representative. ISCCW has had contact with 6,663 people and their education programs have reached over 3,000 people. They have a Thursday night education program and are working to get more children involved. She reported that a Michigan grant proposal in conjunction with Iron County Lakes & Streams Partnership is pending and should be hearing something soon.

Bob McGuffin gave his presidents report stating that most of his report will be covered under Old and New Business. He thanked the Board for all the work that has been done. He also thanked all the CCROA members for supporting the aquatic invasive species work.

Vice-president, Omar Shabaz, reported that he has been working on AIS grants and thanked those involved with the grants...there is a huge amount of paperwork involved. He had just gone on an AIS dive and he encouraged member to volunteer and get involved.

David Fauntleroy read his treasurer's report. Financially the CCROA is in good shape with \$448,000 in assets. He stated that the CCROA spent about \$60,000 last year on AIS treatment, grant writing and continued effort. The treasurer's report was approved.

Linda Hammer gave the Membership Report. The CCROA has 351 with 111 being Lifetime Members, which is up 4 from last year thanks to a few members requesting that their dam funds be applied to lifetime memberships. A membership renewal reminder was sent in the spring to past due members. The report was approved.

Bob McGuffin gave a dam history stating that originally the dam was made to float logs. The power company bought the dam in 1937, and the warranty deed states that the dam will be operated to maintain water levels until unable to do so. Our attorneys found a settlement agreement from 1939 that affirms this obligation. We feel that the warranty deed and settlement agreement justify not purchasing the dam and that purchasing it would put the CCROA at risk if

1. We would have a huge liability if someone hit a submerged log and was injured
2. We would have to get someone to operate the dam for perpetuity.
3. We would need to fund the operation and any other unexpected costs.

The board does not feel we need to buy the dam, and if anyone should buy the dam, is should be Gogebic County.

Bob discussed the redistribution of dam funds, reminding members that we explicitly stated that funds donated to the dam would only be used to buy the dam. A letter was mailed to all members who donated to the dam fund providing options for these funds. We are still trying to locate 15 people who donated.

1. Let CCROA keep the donation unrestricted
2. Let CCROA keep the donation for lake management
3. Give the donation to ISCCW
4. Have the donation refunded less 7 ½% to cover costs incurred. This option might require you to amend your tax return

Dave Fauntleroy stated that we received 144 responses out of about 311. He stated that he will start sending out checks in the next few weeks to all who asked for donations to be returned. Questions were asked and answered about all that has transpired regarding the dam. The CCROA will work with UPPCO to make dam maintenance simpler.

The Special Assessment District for AIS abatement on the Michigan side of the Chain was discussed. It is being set up to facilitate treatment permission and handle funding. We plan to set a similar Special Assessment District for the Wisconsin side next year. Discussion ensued, questions were asked and answered. The assessment districts will be on the annual meeting agendas going forward.

We are looking for a Mamie Lake Representative. Bob stated that questions about short term rental homes on the Cisco Chain have been raised. The Township has a committee working through this issue and to contact the Township if you have any questions or concerns.

During the open form, additional Cisco Chain questions were raised and answered.

Election of Officers - the current officers were re-elected for another year.

A few miscellaneous announcements re the carved bear and 50/50 raffle, CCROA clothing and "Saving Our Lakes & Streams" books for sale.

At 11:30 a.m. a motion to adjourn was made and approved.



THOSE DARN WEEDS!!!!

By Greg Wenzel

Many of us that have tended a garden or lawn have been faced with the task of eradicating weeds. Beyond the immediate confines of our lawns and gardens here in the Northwoods, we are surrounded by forest. The landscape and ecosystems of our forests are being threatened by numerous species of troublesome, invasive plants that can have ecological, economic, and health impacts on the land. These are not plants indigenous to the forests but rather exotic plants brought from lands afar by accident or design. Many of these terrestrial invaders were introduced as ways to add color, dimension or variety to the landscape of our yards. Some of these exotic plants have propagated beyond their intended uses either through seed dispersal by wind or by birds and animals that have used the seeds as a food source.

One of these plants is Japanese Barberry. The ornamental bush used by many landscapers has spread unchecked to yards and the forest surrounding the Cisco Chain. They outcrop and shade out native plants and because they have thorns, restrict use of areas by pets and people. Another invader that restricts use of land recreationally is Canadian Thistle. It also has a prickly nature and overtakes natural plants species.

Two other terrestrial invaders of concern in local areas are Honeysuckle and Garlic Mustard. These plants have the capability of literally carpeting the landscape and in the case of Honeysuckle (as well as Japanese barberry), they harbor ticks which is an additional unappreciated attribute.

Over the course of the past several years, the CCROA has provided educational outreach to Riparian Owners on Aquatic Invasive Species and best practices to prevent their spread and introduction of new invaders to our lakes. Additionally, information has been distributed pertaining to protection, preservation and restoration of shoreline habitat. The topic of terrestrial invasive plants is increasingly important as awareness of their expansion across natural habitats increases and people recognize their negative impact.

In a future edition of Shorelines, I intend to provide informational resources for terrestrial plant identification and suggested practices for their mitigation. Stay tuned for more info!

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

Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association Membership Application 2019

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: David Neumann 906-358-0159
Vice President: Omar Shabaz 630-664-5678 mshabaz@ameritech.net	Big Lake South: Ann Rapp 715-547-6073	Mamie Lake: <u>OPEN</u>	Dean Stanton deanscar54@yahoo.com
Secretary: Susan Anderson 906-358-9820	Cisco Lake: Jay Sweny 715-833-1021 sweneycr@yahoo.com	Poor Lake: Rod Brost 906-358-4481	Shore Lines Editor: Linda Hammer 906-250-0902 kittyisland0500@gmail.com
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	Webmaster: Gary Ebert 906-358-4246
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	THE CCROA IS IN NEED OF A LAKE REPRESENTATIVE FOR MAMIE LAKE!
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	

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 10 – August 26, 2019)

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, 2019)

Ottawa Visitor Summer Programs

Enjoy interesting programs every Thursday evening at 7 pm this summer through August 29th, 2019

The programs feature the flora, fauna and history of Ottawa National Forest and history of the Upper Peninsula.

Help celebrate Smokey the Bear's 75th birthday!!
www.ottawainterpretive.org/visitors-center/

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

Watersmeet/Land O'Lakes are literally where "Waters Meet"!! The Ontonagon River flows north from Watersmeet into Lake Superior; the Wisconsin River flows south from Land O'Lakes into the Mississippi; and the Paint River flows east into Lake Michigan!

Find more Cisco Chain information on the CCROA website
www.ciscochainroa.com



Around Town Events-Land O'Lakes

4th of July Fireworks – July 3, 2019 10:15 pm at the Airport
Gates open at 5pm, Food & Refreshments will be available
Salute to the 4th Parade & Picnic July 4, 2019 –
Parade starts at noon.
Picnic immediately following the Parade at the Town Park Pavilion

Art Impressions – July 27, 2019 9 am – 3 pm





Around Town Events-Watersmeet

July 6, 2019 for the 4th of July Celebration!!!!
Parade celebrating the 4th starts at 2 pm
Picnic at the park immediately following the parade

Fireworks will begin at dusk on July 6, 2019

(Volunteers are Welcomed)

