

**Wisconsin Cisco Chain Lake District Meeting
Annual Meeting Minutes
Cisco Resort Pavilion
July 13, 2024**

Meeting Attendees: Steve Kessler, President; Ron Buczkiewicz, Treasurer; Paul Steinbrecher, Secretary. Other members of the Wisconsin side of the Cisco Chain present.
A quorum was met.

The Cisco Chain Lake District (CCLD) Annual meeting was called to order by Steve Kessler at 10:03 AM. Steve stated that the Town of Land O' Lakes received notification of this meeting and posted it for public view and awareness. The affected residents received a notification of the meeting 15 days prior to the meeting.

The 2025 CCLD Budget was reviewed. The CCLD Budget has a total revenue of \$121,000.00, total expenses of \$121,000.00, leaving a balance of \$0.00. Steve stated that there will not be an assessment levied in 2025. There has not been an assessment levied in 4 of the last 5 years. Motion to approve the budget was made by Ron Buckiewicz and seconded by Carol Steinbrecher. The ayes carried the vote.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Paul Steinbrecher and seconded by Mike Yorkers. The ayes carried the vote and the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 am.

At the CCLD Board meeting, Board members decided to keep their respective positions on the board so there is no election.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Steinbrecher, Secretary

**CCROA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
July 13, 2024 10 AM
CISCO RESORT PAVILION**

Proxys: Scott Saveraid assigns his proxy to Spencer Cable. Roy Knoth, Don Duebler, Robert Foote to Steve Kessler

Start of the CCROA Meeting (10:15am):

1. **Call to order:** Gene called the meeting to order at 10:20 am. A quorum was present for the annual meeting. Check to see if registrations are current
2. **Silent Auction** – Framed print of the Cisco Chain with nature photographs created by and donated by Holly McCormack – this is our only Silent auction item. We also have Joan Cavanaugh running the 50/50 raffle.
3. **Acceptance of the 2023 Business Meeting Minutes:** Gene reminded everyone that the minutes for the 2023 Annual Meeting were posted on line available for all to review. Gene asked if there were any comments on the Minutes. Gene made a motion to accept the minutes. Tim Lathrop seconded the motion. The motion passed.

4. **President's Report:** Gene thanked everyone who volunteered for the CCROA this past year. The Cornfields retired after many, many, years of service in managing our water quality programs including the secchi disk program (10 volunteers). Stepping up to this responsibility has been Paul and Carol Steinbrecher. Thank you very much. Laura Mans is stepping down from Membership. Thanks so much for your service, Laura. Steve Kessler continues to manage our AIS program and the Lake District organizations in Michigan and Wisconsin. Thanks to the folks who make up the CCLD: Ron Buczkiewicz, and Paul Steinbrecher. Thanks to all who helped organize this annual meeting. Spencer Cable was the lead. He had volunteers show up early to help set up including Jim Reitmeyer, Dan Farkas, Scott Saveraid. Joan Cavanaugh is running the ever-popular 50/50 raffle. Thanks to Phil Wolbrink and Tim Lathrop for their work on the Walleye Stocking last October; a lot of detail work goes into making that happen. Thanks to Debra Kessler for her work on our semi-annual Shore Lines Newsletter. I get so many compliments on that publication from you all and other lake associations in the area. Thanks to Gary Ebert in managing our website. Thanks to the officers of the CCROA: Spencer, David, and Francie. Thanks to the 13 Lake Reps and others that make up the Board. There are a lot of people who make this organization run, who are dedicated to maintaining the natural quality of these waters, and they are all volunteers. There are easily 1,000 hrs. of volunteer service each year in this organization! Thanks to all you members who support these activities through your donations. Please keep your memberships current, give extra above the \$25 membership if you can afford. Encourage your neighbors on the Chain to become members.

We had Many Waters do a summary study of our years of lake water quality data we have been collecting: phosphorous, chlorophyll a, water transparency (secchi disc reading), dissolved oxygen, and water temperature. You can access this 50 page report on our website under Latest News titled "Cisco Chain Water Quality Summary – 2024".

Just before this meeting, the Cisco Chain Lake District held its annual meeting. This organization along with the Mi Special Assessment District, allow the CCROA to assess each private riparian owner on the Chain an amount that is earmarked for water quality and AIS Control activities. Our last assessment was in 2021. We are not planning for one in 2024, so you will see no such line item on your real estate tax bill in December 2024. We have been successful in securing grants to support our activities and your continuing contributions also help in funding these activities. Our financial position remains strong, David will report on that later. Membership levels have grown. We should be happy with where we are as an organization.

In closing, Gene emphasized that we have a lake culture here in the Chain that values the pristine natural qualities of our waters and shorelines. It is important to preserve these qualities for our children and grandchildren. Many bodies of waters south of here have experienced a diminished natural quality. This happens slowly and then one day these folks look around and sadly reminisce about how it was 10-20 years ago. We can all see this. Please maintain healthy shorelines, that being a buffer from your yard to the water. Leave as much woody debris as you can in the water for fish habitat and shoreline protection. Be aware of your wake, look behind you every once in a while to see what you are leaving behind. Show courtesy to other folks on the water.

Thanks to all of you!

5. **Vice President's Report:** Spencer Cable - Thank you for those that set up. AED discussion from last meeting reminded us that there is at least a half-hour response time for an ambulance to arrive coming from Iron Mountain or Eagle River. To help save lives, AEDs are now available in some places on and around the Chain. including Cisco Bar, Wilderness Bay Resort, Bents Camp, Bear Trap Inn, and Black Oak Grill. There are sources for personal AEDs. Spencer has arranged a CPR class for anyone who wants to learn CPR. Aug 29 – in the Pavilion area at the Cisco Bar. The In-person portion must be preceded by online class. Cost \$60 per person. Sign up here today and Spencer will

email the link. We will put something on the web site for the classes. We will also send an email blast out with the link

6. **Treasurer's Report:** David Fauntleroy

Description	Available Working fund	Dam Fund	Lake Mgmt.	Walleye	Total
Balance 12-31-2022	\$248,876.86	\$19,721.13	\$112,894.88	\$45,623.69	\$427,116.56
2023 year income	\$12,405.01	\$0.00	\$36,961.59	\$,765.00	\$51,131.60
2023 Expenses	\$7,697.30	\$0.00	\$494,569.62	\$32,500.00	\$134,766.92
Investment Inc Adj 2023	\$29,157.45	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$29,157.45
Balance 12-31-2023	\$282,742.02	\$19,721.13	\$55,286.85	\$14,888.69	\$372,638.69

7. **Membership Report:** Laura Mans: as of yesterday. 41 expired in 2023. We will email those who have not renewed. Be sure to confirm your contact info. We have now(prior to the meeting) 299 total, with around around 41 new in the last year.

Lake	Members
Big Lake	40
Cisco	38
Clearwater	10
Clover Leaf	1
East Bay	18
Fishhawk	13
Lindsley	23
Mamie	18
Morley	3
Off water	1
Poor Lake	13
Spring Lake	1
Thousand Island	94
West Bay	25
Blank	1
Total	299

8. **AIS report:** EWM growing denser – we may need to increase expenses. Revenue for our AIS program comes from 3 places –1. ISCCW – clean boats program is funded by them. 2. Grant from Wisconsin - \$45K/year for 2023, 2024, 2025. 3. CCROA treasury - \$162K budgeted for AIS control. We use a methodical surveillance process based on strategy where several biological surveys of all 15 lakes are performed. Diver-assisted hand pulling is not allowed in MI but is OK in WI. PLM completed all Michigan herbicide treatments during June. These treatments were applied to small sites on Fishhawk, Thousand Island and Morley lakes. Permits for WI applications have now been received and applications are scheduled for two sites on Big Lake. The largest Big Lake site is a 7.5-acre site in front of the Palmer Bay Boat Landing. We currently have a three-year grant from the State of Wisconsin. Last year was the first year. We received a \$25,000 advance in April of last year. We have just submitted a Grant Payment Request for 2023 and expect to receive an additional

reimbursement of \$15,557 for 2023 expenses. The grant balance remaining for 2024 and 2025 expenses will be \$75,331. We need to be careful about Zebra Muscles. Many lakes around us have them but we do not.

Spiny water fleas – watch out for these – in 5 lakes in Vilas County have them. They will disrupt the food chain and sport fish will not have food. Decontaminating boats cannot be done at the boat landing. There is no known solution to spiny water fleas. Prevention is the only solution. Caution is needed with boats with ballast tanks entering our lakes. Boats with ballast tanks cannot be fully drained, which increases risk. Some areas are instituting ordinances to ban to boats that use a ballast tank to cause a wake. The boats can be used in other ways other than using the ballast. Towns around us are banning uses of boats in ballast wake mode. We need to be careful that we are not the only lakes where anyone can come to use their surf boats.

9. **Report approval:** Gene motion to approve reports. Randy Pozin 2nd. Motion passes

10. Old Business

- a. **Walleye Update.** Gene reported that we released 10,000+ walleye fingerlings in October 2023. Phil and Tim worked on investigating sources and working out the logistics for the release. This release cost \$32,500.00, just over \$3.25 per 5-7" fingerling. The walleye were placed on Thousand Island and at the Lindsley Lake bridge. Phil indicated we have around \$17,000 remaining in our "Walleye" Fund as of today. They will investigate whether to release some 6-8,000 fingerlings this Fall 2024. If so, this will exhaust our Walleye Fund, so we encourage you all to contribute to the fund to replenish its balance. We can draw on our General Fund to supplement the walleye planting, but to assure that one will occur, please contribute! Tim was asked if can we vary from the Bay de Noc strain. The Tribe uses another strain and they have a hatchery and are expanding to 2 more ponds. They are looking into using fish from the Tribe's hatchery.
- b. **Defib Update.** Spencer reported during the Vice Presidents report.

11. New Business

- a. **Yvonne Clark – Trustee, Watersmeet Township.** Discussion on local issues. Yvonne could not make the meeting. Her message is below:
Thank-you for inviting me back again this year. I am Yvonne Clark, and I am one of your Township Trustees. Normally, I would be here in-person as in years past, but this year I am with my husband Greg as he recovers from recent surgery in Cleveland.
Here are some of the things going on in your Township:
FIBER OPTIC INTERNET (Highline)
This has been one of the very most important issues for Watersmeet residents in my time as Trustee.
A Short History Lesson: CCROA Member John Oliver, currently the other Township Trustee (but before he became a Trustee) took it upon himself to create the Watersmeet Broadband Task Force out of frustration at the lack of progress in attracting high speed internet to Watersmeet Township. The Task Force consisted of: CCROA Members John Oliver and Bob McGuffin, Dan Hance (former owner of Wilderness Bay), my husband Greg, and myself. The most significant accomplishment of the Task Force was the work to convince Highline (the internet service provider awarded an FCC grant to bring 1 Gig fiber optic internet to much of the U.P. as well as the thumb of lower Michigan) to come to Watersmeet sooner rather than later. Highline started its installation work under the grant in 2021, concentrating on Delta & Menominee Counties as well as some parts of the Thumb. The grant allowed Highline until at least 2027 to finish its work, so it looked like small western U.P. townships like Watersmeet would be at the back of the line. The Task Force convinced the CEO of Highline to pick up and move installation efforts

to Watersmeet starting in 2022! According to Highline, Watersmeet became the very first Township in this part of the U.P. to receive their fiber optic services.

Highline hopes to complete installation around the Cisco Chain by the end of this year. It's been very gratifying to see a service so important to residents finally becoming a reality.

The work of the Task Force is not over: There are still parts of the Township not covered by the FCC grant to Highline, so the Task Force continues its work to attract high speed internet to the remainder of the Township.

WAKE BOATS

Wake boats became perhaps the #1 hot-button issue for lakes in our Township, the State of Michigan, and throughout the country. I was here with many of you last year when the CCROA had a speaker from the wake boat industry and a speaker supporting regulation of wake boats. By now, almost everyone has an opinion about this issue. There's recently been a bi-partisan Michigan House Bill 5532 introduced that, if passed, would provide some level of protections for lakes and other lake users. The core of Michigan H.B. 5532 is that wake boats operated in wake sport mode must stay at least 500 feet from a shoreline or a docked or anchored boat and must additionally stay in waters at least 20 feet deep. As a Township Trustee, I support this legislation. So, when I get back home with my recovering husband, I will move our Township to pass a Resolution officially supporting H.B. 5532. Fellow Trustee John Oliver and Clerk Julie Mathiesen also plan to support it. In the meantime, let your state legislators know your feelings, pro or con. They are: Senator Ed McBroom and Representative Greg Markkenann.

CODE RED

Thanks to Zoe Coleman, the Township has recently launched an Emergency Notification System - "Code Red". If you sign up this system will automatically notify you if there is an emergency in the Township – such as blizzards, forest fires, etc. Please see the Township website for more information and how to sign up.

SURVEY

The Planning Commission has a survey out. Please be sure to respond so they can know what's important for you either to change or to keep. You can access the survey on the Township website. Paper copies are available at the Township office. If you have any questions or concerns about the survey – please give me a call.

At the end of the survey, there's an opportunity to add any additional concerns you might have. There are no survey questions about wake boats, so if you have a concern about that you will need to write that in. Jim Gergis indicated you can fill out the survey online or go to the Town Hall for a paper copy - -

ELECTION

This is an election year not only nationally, but for the Township as well. Primary – August 6 (an important vote to determine who your Trustees are likely to be). General Election – November 5. Please be sure to exercise your right to vote and have a voice in your Township, State, and Nation.

I'm very sorry I couldn't be here in person today, but if anyone has any questions or concerns, I'm always happy to respond. Thank you again for your time.

Michelle Kanipes - ISCCW Education Manager. Thank you to the CCROA for your support - financial, mental and physical. These board and membership are the keys to keeps inland lakes safe and viable for all types of lake recreation and use... for not only people, but the wildlife (aquatic and terrestrial) that we also share such a space.

Without membership and donations, our endeavors at ISCCW would cease to exist. Support of both such entities (lake associations and the ISCCW) are tantamount to the continued efforts to support the health and wellness of the western UP inland lakes and streams. CCROA members make up about 35% of ISCCW membership so thank you

Hot Spots:

* Iron County, MI.....hybrid milfoil identified in a lake. EWM has successfully cross pollinated with native milfoil to create this new aquatic plant

* St. Germain, WI area.....a landscaping firm unwittingly put a terrible aquatic invasive plant (water hyacinth) into a water feature at a private residence. The landscaping firm was contacted, and had to come back to remove the plant(s). Note to all land lake shore property owners: vet all landscaping companies and make certain they are using only native plants, and can verify/certify that they are native and noninvasive.

Hydrilla (AIS) has been identified in lower Michigan lakes. Clean boats equal clean water. This is an awful aquatic invasive that we do NOT want in our UP waters. Some will say it is far worse than EWM.

Septics: phosphorus runoff and septic waste are awful for lakes. Septic leaks and improper/old/illegal septic systems are the main cause of algal growth in lakes.

"One pound of phosphorus can produce from 300 to 500 pounds of algae."

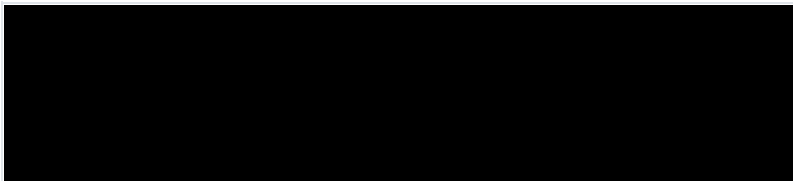
It is much quoted in articles and during presentations when the "greening" of lakes is discussed. It means a pound of the nutrient phosphorus entering a lake (or river) from wastewater or stormwater runoff can promote growth of up to 500 pounds of "pea soup" algae.

Note that the Clean Boats Program from May-Oct 2023 – inspected 6,000 + boats – power washed many!

Michelle listed Programs to review:

* MSU offers an online course called: Introduction to Lakes

[Introduction to Lakes Online](#)



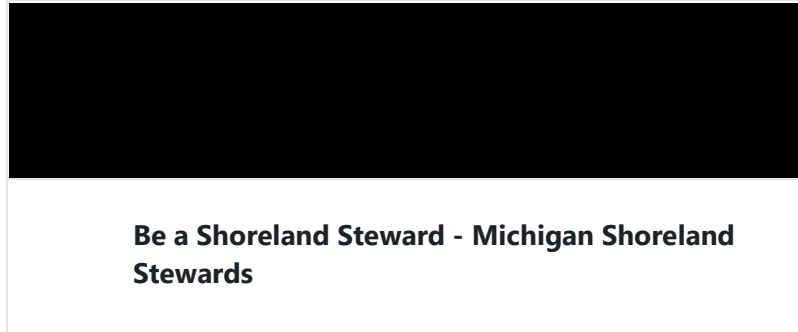
Introduction to Lakes Online - Great Lakes Commission

Registration for the award-winning Michigan State University Extension Introduction to Lakes Online course is no...

Online Registration for the award-winning Michigan State University Extension Introduction to Lakes Online course is now open! This six-week online course runs January 25- March 16, 2022 and is designed for anyone interested in inland lakes, including lakefront property owners, recreational users and managers.

Shoreline Stewards program (free)

[Be a Shoreland Steward - Michigan Shoreland Stewards](#)



Our Lakeshore Connection video series to watch and share

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_WyKzpwuxKY

- b. Joe Erickson – Highline Internet. Discussion on Highline activities. Joe had a scheduling issue and could not make the meeting.

12. Open Forum

- a. Questions from the Membership – Thank you to Bob McGuffin for pushing Highline. Many members signed up and many waiting
- b. Shirts – will send out an email to order and will put on the website – Mr. Brown
- c. Outgoing Board Members
 - i. Laura Mans – Membership is retiring
- d. Nominations:
 - i. Tom Krautkramer – Ron Buczkiewicz nominated to be Membership. No other nominations. Gene moved, Tom 2nd – motion passed
- e. Election of Officers – Gene Moved to accept the current officers for the next year. Tim second Motion passed

13. Adjournment Gene moved at 11:45am, Tim Lathrop second

LUNCH TO FOLLOW