

**INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE**

President’s Report	1
VP’s Report	2
Secretary’s Report	4
Treasurer’s Report	4
Roads’ Report	5
Lakes’ Report	5
Special Projects	7
Foundation	7
Calendar of Events	7
Lake Water Quality	8



“Skip a stone.  
Take a hike.  
Sit a spell.  
Listen.  
Daydream.  
Just breathe.  
This is lake living.”

**CRYSTAL LAKE PERCH LAKE POA**

*A helping hand, compassionate heart;  
A sunny smile, each do our part;  
A kindly act, or worthy deed;  
A tolerant mind, a friend in need;  
A prayer each day, if these things done...  
We'll keep this "The livin'est Place Under the Sun!"  
-- Unknown*

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Kevin McMaster**

As I write this report I noticed this is the first day of spring. Hopefully all full time Perch and Crystal Lake residents are feeling warmer days and all the snow has melted.... Spring has sprung!

**Bylaws**

Last fall I asked **Patty Maher** and **Marty Mulloy** to take on the task of updating our bylaws. The CLPL bylaws originated in 1939 as a plan of governance for our property owners association and have stood the test of time. We have had slight modifications over the years and with the recent Lake SAD they needed a refresh. Patty and Marty did an amazing job working many hours and we look forward to reviewing with all at our summer meeting in July.

**Road Crew**

After the recent fall/winter months of rain, sleet snow and ice on our streets I wanted to recognize our road leader **Rick Applegate** and **Terry Yamarino** for their outstanding efforts to maintain our roads. On behalf of everyone at CLPL we thank you and appreciate your efforts!

**Lake Management**

Last year our lakes joined the Michigan Cooperative Monitoring Program regularly monitoring water clarity, algae, invasive plants and phosphorus load. Thanks to **Wayne Snyder** (Crystal) and **Linda McCracken** (Perch) for volunteering to monitor this data. Please take time to see the results posted on our lake webpage. [www.crystallakes.com](http://www.crystallakes.com).

**2022 BOARD MEMBERS**

**PRESIDENT**  
Kevin McMaster  
kmac20hud@roadrunner.com

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Patty Maher  
CLPLVeep@gmail.com

**SECRETARY**  
Thea Kirkwood  
clplsecretary@gmail.com

**TREASURER**  
Mike King  
kingml8150@gmail.com

**ROADS**  
Rick Applegate  
csa459@hotmail.com

**LAKES**  
Bob Conn  
rconn1315@aol.com

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**  
Barb Yamarino  
byamarino@me.com

**AD-HOC LAKES**  
Elizabeth LaPorte

**AD-HOC TREASURER**  
Diane Ostrosky

**EMERITUS PRESIDENT**  
Marty Mulloy

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT, continued – Kevin McMaster**

**People We Have Lost**

It will be a little quieter on our lakes this summer. Please keep the following people we lost in your prayers:

- Sue Gagneur**
- Larry Turpening**
- Karl Kakaley**
- Roxanna Hopkins**

**Lake Fundraising**

We had another successful lake fundraising event with our Fall Auction and Lake Calendar. Thanks to **David Vanderworp** and the Auction team **Lois Plantefaber** and **Patty Maher** as well as all the people who donated items and bid on items! **Barb Yamarino** created our beautiful 2023 lake calendar with pictures donated from our homeowners. We appreciate everyone’s efforts, raising over \$3,500!

**Spring Meeting**

I hope to see as many people as possible at our Spring Membership Meeting, Township Hall, on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please join us at 9:30 for coffee and doughnuts with the meeting starting at 10:00 AM.

**Big One That Didn’t Get Away**

Rick Applegate and some friends landed this beauty while ice fishing on Crystal. 40 inches, 17 pound pike!



**VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Patty Maher**

Update on the Review of the CLPL Property Owners Association By-Laws

Hello, CLPL Lake Community. I hope this spring newsletter finds you and your families doing well. I am certainly looking forward to the onset of consistently warmer weather and a great summer on the lake(s).

Last fall, Kevin McMaster, our current Association President, asked Marty Mulloy, Past President, and me to lead an effort to review our current Crystal Lake-Perch Lake Property Owners (CLPLPOA) bylaws which were written in 1939 and make recommendations for possible changes. Though there have been some additions to the bylaws suggested and approved by the membership over the recent past; however at their core they remain intact from the Founding Community members who wrote and approved them.

---

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT, continued – Patty Maher

The bylaw document provides a detailed framework for the governance of the Association and also guides the Board in operational practice. Ensuring that the bylaws reflect both our current situations while providing us a firm foundation for the future is important to the stability of our Lake Community. This article provides an update on our work over the past six months as we prepared recommendations for your consideration.

If you haven't read the bylaws recently (or ever in my case before being elected to the Board!) now would be a good time to take a look prior to our spring (April 23) and summer (July 9) meetings. The current bylaws can be accessed from the CLPL Website. <http://www.crystalperchlakes.com/association/> Look under the "Association" tab and you will find the link on the right hand side of the page – Association By-Laws. That will bring up the document. If you cannot access them from the website, you can request a copy from Thea Kirkwood, CLPL Secretary.

*Overview of the process followed to bring forward recommendations for consideration by the membership for edits, updates and changes to the bylaws.*

- Marty and I kicked off our initial set of three meeting in early October by familiarizing ourselves with the current bylaws document. We discussed these for many hours. Then we outlined a plan for gathering input and met with Kevin in mid-November to get his thoughts on the approach and key issues to explore further.
- Over the next three months we held over 24 hours of one on one or small group input meetings with the current Board members (Rick Applegate, Bob Conn, Mike King, Thea Kirkwood, and Barb Yamarino); the Lake Foundation Board President (Dave Vanderwoop), two Past-Presidents (Ann Love and Chuck Fifefield), and our legal counselor at large (Judy Moskus).
- Based on those sessions, we developed a comprehensive updated working document of suggested edits to the bylaws and sent that to Kevin to review and edit prior to a full Board review meeting via Zoom in February.

The types of changes you will see in the document and will be discussed in April include: a) removing outdated language, b) clarifying processes that are part of governance with SAD (our lakes Special Assessment District) in or not in effect, c) outlining roles and responsibilities of all CLPLPOA officer/trustees, and d) recommending changes that we believe set a more equitable approach for collecting dues to support our CLPLPOA into the future. The proposed changes will be outlined during the spring meeting. Based on this meeting, edits may be made before bringing the final recommendations to a vote. The complete set of possible changes to the bylaws for consideration will be posted to the CLPL website at least one month prior to the summer meeting (by June 9, 2022). These will also be sent (hard copy) with the newsletter 30 days prior to the annual meeting for those who cannot access the website.

A discussion of and vote on the proposed changes will be one of the key topics of our annual summer meeting, July 9<sup>th</sup>. These are our bylaws. And as such, require a two-thirds majority vote at the annual meeting. We hope to see you at the April and July membership meetings.

Thank you,

Patty Maher and Marty Mulloy

---

## SECRETARY'S REPORT – Thea Kirkwood

Spring is near and everyone is looking forward to the seasonal changes. Typically, we do not have a spring newsletter with the exception of last year due to the time-sensitive nature of the SAD information. We have added this one for other information we wanted to include but will return to the Summer/Fall newsletter schedule for 2023.

We will continue to utilize email and electronic communications moving forward. We would also encourage people to check our website for lake and meeting information. In the past, we have had many copies of the previous meeting minutes unused and then discarded. The minutes are all posted on our website for review prior to the next meeting. Please take a moment to read them at our website for approval at the Spring meeting. The link is...<http://www.crystalperchlakes.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CLPLPOA-Fall-Meeting-Minutes-10.9.21.pdf>

We continue to update our directory with the help of Mike King and informed residents. As properties are sold, Mike sends all available contact information to me so that we can help new residents feel connected to our community. Additionally, people often change email addresses or phone numbers, so it is important to pass that along for our communications. If you would like to check the status of your contact information, you may email me at [clplsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:clplsecretary@gmail.com). We will continue to use discretion in the emails that we send to the group and focus on information that is related to the association and activities.

Thank you for your involvement in our community and assistance in helping keep it a wonderful place to live.

---

## TREASURER'S REPORT – Mike King

We have received 121 out of 123 road/administration dues and 20 out of 27 administration dues for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. I want to thank all of our members who have paid their dues in support of our Lakes. Two separate past due notices have been sent to the members who have not paid their road/administration dues. If we don't receive payment by the end of July, liens will be issued against their property.

<b><u>2021-2022 Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Planned</u></b>	<b><u>Actual</u></b>
<i>Income</i>		
Road Dues	\$ 33,825	\$33,275
Admin Dues	<u>\$ 3,750</u>	<u>\$ 3,500</u>
<b><u>Total Income</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 37,575</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 36,775</u></b>
<i>Expenses</i>		
Administration	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,269
SAD Expenditures*	\$ 0	\$ 6,150
Special Events	\$ 1,000	\$ 868
Road Management	<u>\$33,600</u>	<u>\$23,168</u>
<b><u>Total Expenses</u></b>	<b><u>\$39,600</u></b>	<b><u>\$34,455</u></b>

\*The Township is reimbursing us for this expense through the SAD revenue. We will be dividing this bill over the next four years to spread out the payments from the SAD. I have met with the Township Treasurer and submitted the first invoice for reimbursement of SAD expenditures and our first PLM bill for environmental permits.

---

**TREASURER'S REPORT, continued – Mike King**

**Checking Account Balance      \$24,836**  
**Savings Account Balance      \$38,382**

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to let me know.

---

**ROADS' REPORT – Rick Applegate**

This winter was not so snowy but the thawing and refreezing created ice on the roads which is very difficult to treat. Our snow plow contractor and our volunteer road workers work hard trying to minimize problem areas with salt, sand and gravel. Salt is effective at times, but too much salt is not good for our environment. We are here to help, so please let us know in a diplomatic fashion if you have questions, and we will try to resolve your concerns.

Spring is a welcome sight and time to get the roads back in shape. Only as the frost melts can we work sections of the roads to minimize potholes. Our compost area will reopen April 1<sup>st</sup>, and we ask that all CLPL residents respect our site by dumping only leaves, small branches, grass clippings, and miscellaneous brush.

15 MPH is our speed limit. Please advise any of your workers that the roads are private roads and speeding is dangerous with the hills and curves.

The volunteers helping with the road work are Terry Yamarino, Tom Lieblein, Chuck Hopkins, Dick Johnson, and Tim Ostrosky. I appreciate the help these guys have given me, and I hope you do as well.

Thank you to the folks who have been kind and courteous to us Road Guys!

---

**LAKES' REPORT – Bob Conn**

Hello my fellow Association neighbors as another spring is upon us. I look forward to once again seeing everyone and enjoying the wonderful community we have built. The Lakes are in good shape with water levels up a bit. I know many of the Crystal Lake folks enjoyed watching the eagles feed on the ice. Ice fishing on both lakes took place and I am unaware of any trespassing or issues that needed to be addressed. This past Tuesday, rainbow trout were stocked in Crystal with the hopes that they survive and maybe even spawn. Rainbow trout live 6-7 years and grow up to 6 pounds. We will be putting in both lakes the fathead minnows to further continue the organic approach to muck and algae reduction. The SAD is fully operational, and we have paid our first bills of the year out of the fund. I look forward to another great year as we work to finding the proper balance for everyone to enjoy the lakes. Our ecosystem is in very good health, but it requires due diligence by all the members to keep it that way.

**What is Starry Stonewort?**

Starry stonewort is a bushy, bright green macro-algae. It produces a characteristic star-shaped bulbil.

---

## LAKES' REPORT, continued – Bob Conn

The thin, bright green branchlets (branch-like structures) can be variable in length and are arranged in whorls (radiating out from a single point) around them. Branchlets typically extend in acute angles away from the stem nodes. Tips of the branchlets may have irregularly-lengthed forks or divisions.

White, star-shaped bulbils (asexual reproductive structures) the size of a grain of rice form on clear threads at the base of the plant and may be found at or below the sediment surface. Small, orange spheres called antheridia (male reproductive structures) may be visible near the tips of the branchlets.

The unwanted algae grow into thick bushes that can take over breeding areas for fish, overcome native vegetation, and disrupt a lake's recreational activities. It produces clear, root-like filaments that anchor it to the sediment.

Starry stonewort is a macro-algae, meaning it does not have a vascular system like true plants. Each branchlet or stem is a single cell. Native populations consist of both males and females, but all known introduced populations in North America are male. Bulbils are present throughout the growing season but become most obvious and plentiful in late summer. Starry stonewort may form a dense carpet of material in shallow areas.

Starry stonewort is native to Eurasia, from the west coast of Europe to Japan. The species was unintentionally introduced into the United States' Great Lakes through the discharge of contaminated cargo ship ballast water. The first occurrence in the United States was in 1978 along the St. Lawrence River.

Since its introduction, Starry Stonewort has spread all throughout the North East United States, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. It was first confirmed in Minnesota in August 2015, in Lake Koronis and connected Mud Lake (Stearns County).

### **Why is it a problem and why should you be concerned?**

Invasive species like Starry Stonewort cause recreational, economic and ecological damage—changing how residents and visitors use and enjoy waterways.

Starry stonewort impacts:

- Dense mats at the water's surface inhibit waterways and clog boat propellers.
- Overtakes habitat and outcompetes native aquatic plants, potentially lowering diversity.
- Provides unsuitable shelter, food, and nesting habitat for native fish and wildlife.

On Lake Koronis for instance, Starry Stonewort spread to over 250 acres before anyone even noticed! Besides interfering with boating and other recreation, starry stonewort can smother fish spawning habitat.

### **What can be done to stop the spread and eradicate?**

Currently, there are no known herbicides that will kill Starry Stonewort and the University of Minnesota has created Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) to understand how it grows, spreads, and more importantly, determine what can be done to stop the invasive from spreading.

Please use this information to know what we are up against in keeping a balance in our Lakes.

---

## SPECIAL PROJECTS – Barbara Yamarino

The Summer Picnic will be held on July 9, 2022 at 12:00 pm following the annual meeting. This year we will be hosting a Hawaiian theme. So get out your grass skirts and your best Hawaiian shirts and come join the fun!

All the food, water and Hawaiian Punch will be provided. You are welcome to BYOB.

We need a committee of volunteers for various projects:

- Set up / Clean up
- Craft team for decorations
- Games / Prizes
- Food preparation

Please contact Barb Yamarino 734-658-8067 if you can help out. Thank you!

---

## FOUNDATION

Now that the SAD has ensured that funding for lake maintenance, the Crystal Lake Perch Lake Foundation is seeking ideas for new projects. Do you have ideas about how to make our lakes a better place? We can fund projects that benefit the lakes as a whole. This could include physical improvements, training, education, watershed maintenance, and more. Please send your ideas to the address below. Include as complete a description of your ideas as possible, along with expected cost of the project. We appreciate your input as we transition from primarily lake maintenance funding to our new direction.

We are always looking for new members who can help to determine which projects are worthwhile. Please contact us if you are interested.

We have been asked by the Association Board to provide back-up funds in case the lakes face a situation that overwhelms our S.A.D. funds. We are reserving \$7,000 to deal with any unforeseen events. So far this year, we have provided funds for fish stocking, explained elsewhere in this newsletter. We are going to forego spring fundraising this year but will have other events during this year to support your projects.

Crystal Lake Perch Lake Foundation  
P.O. Box 193  
Somerset Center, MI 49282

OR

vanscamp@wowway.com

---

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

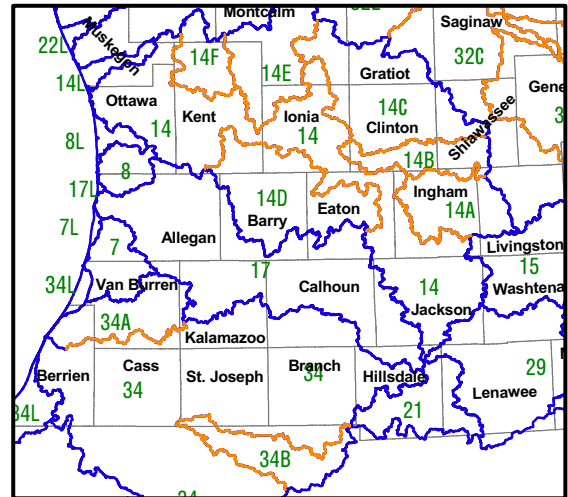
**Spring Membership Meeting** – April 23, 2022 from 10:00 to 12 noon, coffee and doughnuts at 9:30 – tentative location of Somerset Township Meeting Room

**Summer Membership Meeting** – July 9, 2022 from 10:00 to 12 noon, coffee and doughnuts at 9:30 – tentative location of Somerset Township Meeting Room

**Summer Picnic** – July 9, 2022 at 12:00 noon – McCourtie Park

### Water Quality

**The overall health of Crystal and Perch Lakes is impacted by activities within our watershed** (industry, farming, boating, runoff, etc.). Crystal and Perch Lakes are part of the Grand Watershed, including the Grand (14), Kalamazoo (17), St. Joseph (34) and Raisin (29) Rivers (numbers correlate to the watershed map, right). The important thing to remember about watersheds is that everything is connected. What our neighbors do affects us and what we do affects our neighbors. Monitoring the health of Crystal and Perch Lakes is critical to maintaining our quality of life and property values.



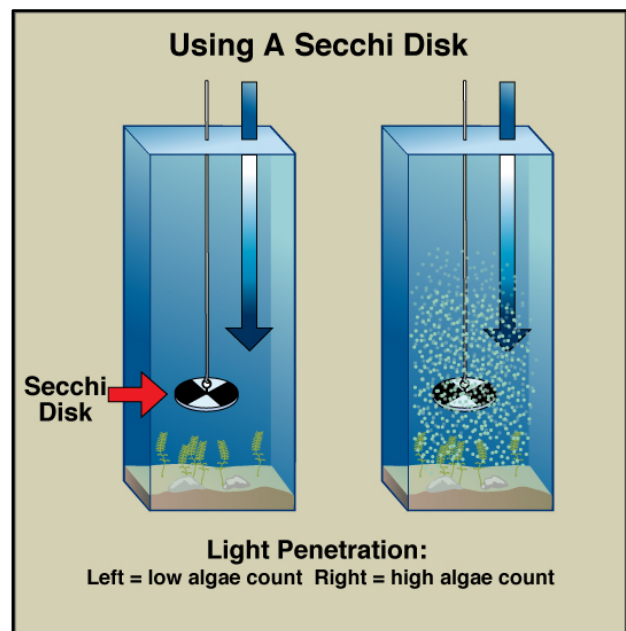
**A variety of measurements reveal information about the health of our lakes, rivers and streams.** Meeting or exceeding the water quality standards for all “designated uses,” including swimming, drinking water, and fishing is the goal for all watersheds. Monitoring water quality involves collecting data and using some basic tools.

**Water Clarity:** One indicator of water quality is water clarity. A tool called a Secchi Dish (see diagrams below and on page 2) is used to measure of the depth that light is visible in the water or the depth at which the Secchi disc disappears when the disc is lowered into the water.

#### Measuring and Monitoring Water Quality

PLM Lake and Management Corporation, and CLPL volunteers, are monitoring the health of CLPL by taking routine measurements, including water clarity, temperature, acidity, turbidity, specific conductance, dissolved oxygen, hardness, and suspended sediment. See the Water Quality Indicators Overview (page 2) to learn more about temperature, acidity and more.

- PLM reports are from 2016-present, and posted on the [CLPL website](#)
- In 2021, CLPL volunteers started taking Secchi disk measurements and have posted the data on the [Michigan Clean Water Corps website](#) ([Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program](#))



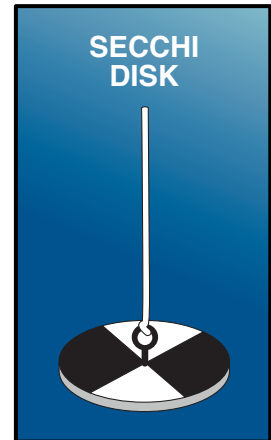


## Water Quality Indicators – Overview

**Water Temperature** may vary daily depending on the wind and the sun. Temperature also varies seasonally. Cool water (39.2 degrees F) is dense and sinks. Water temperature is important to fish and aquatic plants.

**Water Acidity (pH):** Most water bodies in the U.S. have pH values between 6.5 and 8.5. Hydrogen ions (H<sup>+</sup>) present allows us to determine whether it is acidic, neutral, or basic on a scale: 0 (most acidic), 14 (most basic), and 7 (neutral).

- Optimal pH for many fish and plant species is between 7.0 and 9.0
- Note: Each unit of pH value represents a tenfold increase in how much hydrogen is present. (For example, water with a pH of 7.5 is 10 times more acidic than water with a pH of 8.5.)



**A small amount of oxygen, about ten molecules of oxygen per million molecules of water, is dissolved in water.** Fish, phytoplankton, and zooplankton need dissolved oxygen to survive (fish can suffocate if oxygen levels are low).

**Turbid water is cloudy or opaque and includes particulate matter or sediment (soil, silt, or plankton) suspended in water.** Sediment can be stirred up just after a heavy rain or as a result of runoff (pollutants, nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen). Sediment can clog fish gills.



**Specific Conductance** measures the capacity of water to conduct an electrical current. It depends on the amount of “dissolved solids,” such as salt, in the water.

**The amount of dissolved calcium and magnesium in water determines its “hardness.”** Iron oxide is the culprit of brown sinks or staining. Learn more about drinking water from [USGS](#).

**Suspended Sediment** is the amount of soil circulating in water. The amount depends in part on the speed of the water flow. Fast-flowing water can pick up and hold, or suspend, more soil.

**What you Can Do:** Crystal and Perch Lakes Property Owners have an important role in maintaining the health of the lakes. Maintaining your septic system, reducing erosion and runoff, eliminating the use of phosphorus, using organic fertilizers sparingly, and planting shrubs, trees and perennials native to this area helps protect the water quality of our lakes.