



# CRYSTAL LAKE PERCH LAKE POA

## PRESIDENT’S REPORT – PATTY MAHER

I always like spring / early summer: the excitement and joy of getting outside, working in and around the house and garden. It is a time of shaking off the winter funk and readying for the warm season. This is our 15th year in CLPL. And it is always a wonderful feeling absorbing the slower days of summer on or in the lake! I appreciate the beauty and the community established on Crystal-Perch Lakes. It takes intention to build and maintain our community connections (through formal and informal events and communication) and commitment to protect and care for our physical environments (i.e., our roads, lakes, trees, yards and homes).

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the Board members (Jim Carr, Laura Dietrich, Linda McCracken, Diane Ostrosky, and Rob Shier) for their continued effort to meet the current needs of the Association and position us well for the future. And also all our committee chairs and members on the following page for their time, talent and expertise. We benefit deeply from their willingness to actively engage in the stewardship of the Association and its resources. And to each of you for making CLPL a wonderful place to call home (full or part-time)!

Visit our website at: [www.crystalperchlakes.com](http://www.crystalperchlakes.com)

## SUMMER – JUNE 2025

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Meeting – July 12, 10 am

Summer Picnic – July 12, 12 pm,  
McCourtie Park

SAD Meeting – Aug 30, 10 am

Fall Meeting – Oct 18, 10 am

Chili Cookoff – Oct 18, 12 pm

Located in Somerset Township  
Meeting Room unless noted



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## BOARD MEMBERS

### PRESIDENT

Patty Maher; 734-417-1549  
[mpvmaher@gmail.com](mailto:mpvmaher@gmail.com)

### VICE PRESIDENT

Laura Dietrich; 502-905-1235  
[la54dietrich@gmail.com](mailto:la54dietrich@gmail.com)

### SECRETARY

Amy Kochendoerfer; 734-652-3038  
[CLPLsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:CLPLsecretary@gmail.com)

### TREASURER

Diane Ostrosky; 734-735-1169  
[ostroskydl@comcast.net](mailto:ostroskydl@comcast.net)

### LAKES

Jim Carr; 419-705-3778  
[cjconsulting8@gmail.com](mailto:cjconsulting8@gmail.com)

### ROADS

Rob Shier; 815-922-8158  
[rlshier123@gmail.com](mailto:rlshier123@gmail.com)

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

Linda McCracken; 702-388-7909  
[lakequilts@gmail.com](mailto:lakequilts@gmail.com)

### FOUNDATION MEMBERS

President – Dave VanDerworp  
Secretary – Annamarie Asher  
Treasurer – Robert Burns  
At Large – Wayne Snyder



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT, continued

We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting – July 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. As always, our summer meeting has a full agenda which includes updates on activities of the POA and Lake Foundation, voting on a new fiscal year (2026) budget, and Board elections. If you are interested in possibly joining the Board in the future, please contact me ([mpvmaher@gmail.com](mailto:mpvmaher@gmail.com)) or any current Board member listed to the left. We would be happy to discuss. If you are unable to attend the summer meeting and would like your vote included, please see the proxy form at the end of this newsletter. The complete agenda with proxy form also will be sent via email prior to the meeting. Our Association Picnic follows the meeting and will be held outdoors at McCourtie Park. More information will be shared as we get closer to this event. We still need some volunteers to help.

### Crews and Committees

Fishing Committee: Rick Applegate (chair), Chad Fish, Jeff Greep, Mike King, George Kokenich, Marty Mulloy, Wayne Snyder and Dave VanDerworp

Lake Advisory Committee: Jim Carr (chair), Annamarie Asher, Elizabeth LaPorte, Kevin McMaster, Wayne Snyder and Dave VanDerworp

Lake Foundation Board: Dave VanDerworp (President), Annamarie Asher (secretary), Bob Burns (Treasurer), and Wayne Snyder

Picnic Committee: Linda McCracken (chair), Mary Ann Johnson, Lois Plantefaber and Lynne Wright (co-chairs) plus many volunteers!!

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## PRESIDENT’S REPORT, continued

Road Crew: Rob Shier (Crew leader), Rick Applegate, Frank Dietrich, Terry Yamarino and Tim Ostrosky, and Chad Fish (ad hoc crew members)

SAD Working Group: Laura Dietrich and Jim Carr (co-chairs), Rick Applegate, Dave Chappel, Mike King, Ann Love, Judy Moskus, Mike Ross, and Dave VanDerworp

And please check out all the other articles in our summer newsletter. It is chock full of useful information. We are using the newsletter to relay important information and then keep our in-person Board /Association meeting as short as necessary to cover new topics and items requiring member input, discussion and voting requirements. Thank you!



## MEET THE BOARD!

Linda McCracken, Special Projects

Diane Ostrosky, Treasurer

Jim Carr, Lakes

Rob Shier, Roads

Amy Kochendoerfer, Secretary

Laura Dietrich, Vice President

Patty Maher, President

(Left to Right)

## VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT – LAURA DIETRICH

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer! We recently emailed owners the ‘Welcome to our Lakes’ letter that will be used when new owners arrive at our lakes. We had several new owners attend the spring meeting which reminded me of when my husband and I moved onto the lake and how nice it was when people approached at the meetings or picnic to welcome us. It seems like such a small thing, but so important, for all of us to welcome new owners and encourage them to participate in our meetings and social events.

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## VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT, continued

As most of you are aware, the current SAD (Special Assessment District), administered by Somerset Township, expires at the end of 2026. The funds generated by the SAD are critical to keeping our lakes healthy by providing a steady revenue stream each year. A new SAD for 2027 through 2031 is currently in the development phase. Early informational meetings with the new leaders in Somerset Township have been helpful in understanding the steps we will need to take later this year. First, however, we need to develop options for the upcoming SAD. A SAD working group was established with POA from Perch and Crystal and our first meeting was held June 14th. The purpose of the working group is to develop options for the upcoming SAD and provide input for these options. Our next step will be to have an open meeting with all POA lake owners, who have lake frontage, to discuss these options and take an initial vote for direction of the SAD. After this initial meeting we will finalize options (if needed) and take a formal vote on the specific SAD direction from all owners. Following the vote, we will gather signatures from lakefront owners to present to the township, beginning the formal SAD process.

As we move through these phases, we will make sure everyone has clear communications as our goal is to be as transparent as possible and receive input from everyone. It will be important that all owners attend these meetings.

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## SECRETARY’S REPORT – AMY KOCHENDOERFER

As we kick off another beautiful summer season on Crystal Lake and Perch Lake, I’d like to remind you to visit our website: <https://www.crystalperchlakes.com/>. It is an excellent resource, all thanks to Libby Pike for keeping it up to date. You’ll find a photo gallery, important communications (including the association’s by-laws, meeting minutes, treasurer reports, and information on SAD Costs & FAQs), as well as guidelines for swimming, boating, and fishing. The Foundation tab also highlights key initiatives like shoreline conservancy and fish stocking. Be sure to explore everything the site has to offer!

If you have any beautiful photos of the lakes or events, we’d love to feature them in the photo gallery on the website. Please email your pictures to me and we will share them.

Lastly, I’d like to personally invite you to attend our next association meeting on Saturday, July 12, 2025, at 10 am at the Somerset Township Hall. Come early to catch up with your lake neighbors over coffee and donuts. After the meeting, we hope that you can join us for the annual lake picnic at McCourtie Park. If the weather does not cooperate, we will move the picnic indoors to the Township Hall.

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## TREASURER’S REPORT – DIANE OSTROSKY

We had a successful year again gathering required dues. We received payment for road dues from all but one (1) member of our association for this fiscal year. Five (5) members that only pay the administration dues did not pay. Thank you to everyone who paid their dues in a timely manner. It is greatly appreciated and makes my job a lot easier.

I will begin invoicing for the 2025-2026 fiscal year after our summer meeting. Invoices will once again be going out via email. This is a huge cost and time savings for us, so please ensure to check your email to make sure it doesn’t go into your SPAM folder. If you have any questions, please let me know and I will do my best to answer them or refer you to someone who can. Thank you!

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## LAKES’ REPORT – Jim Carr

Hello CLPL neighbors and friends. Summer is upon us and with it comes lots of activity on the lakes and increased levels of aquatic vegetation (UGH!). The Board and Lakes Committee are fully aware of how important the lakes are to our community and are working diligently to maintain their health and usability.

First a little background, systemic herbicides were introduced into the 2024 lake treatment protocol. Systemic herbicides are absorbed into the plant and directly affect the reproduction of the plant and root system; thus, killing the plant. They are slower acting than contact herbicides, which destroy the part of the plant it touches, but longer lasting and hopefully less expensive over time. This season, we will continue to use both contact and systemic herbicides where appropriate and feasible.

This year a Lakes Advisory Committee was established to provide input on how to best care for our lakes given the available resources. (See the full list of Lake Advisors on page 2.) This group collectively has many years’ experiences living and working on the lakes. Their passion and knowledge have been and will continue to be invaluable in maintaining and protecting our lakes for all uses.

As discussed at the spring POA meeting, the committee recommended to the Board that we engage Restorative Lake Sciences (RLS) and PLM, the lake treatment vendor, to work together to develop and execute treatment plans for Crystal and Perch. The benefit of this approach is that it creates a system of “checks and balances” between lake assessors (RLS) and lake treatment personnel (PLM).

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## LAKES' REPORT, continued

RLS surveyed the lakes in late May and developed a treatment plan in conjunction with PLM. PLM treated both lakes, including Little Crystal, on Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> for Eurasian Milfoil and Small Leaf Pondweed using maps created by RLS. In addition, the high levels of aquatic vegetation supported harvesting on Perch. PLM returned on June 20<sup>th</sup> to begin harvesting. We are also monitoring the increased aquatic vegetation – mostly pondweed – on Crystal Lake and channel for possible further actions.

PLM will be providing individual lot spraying this summer for interested residents. The form is on our website [HERE](#) and was also distributed via email earlier this month. The deadline for sign up is July 4 with the treatment being applied shortly thereafter.

We will continue to monitor both lakes as the summer progresses to assess treatment effectiveness and determine if and when additional treatments are needed for algae and large leaf pondweed. Thank you all for your patience as I acclimate to my new role. There is a STEEP learning curve.

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## ROADS' REPORT – ROB SHIER

I am beginning my second year of volunteering for road maintenance and what I quickly realized is that “Best in Class” road conditions can only happen when the volunteers have a diligence for keeping high standards for providing our association members with great road conditions. I am fortunate to have learned good practices from Rick Applegate.

Again, thank you to Rick Applegate, Frank Dietrich, and Terry Yamarino for giving their time and physical effort that they have reliably provided us. We appreciate you!!

This past winter has provided me with another opportunity to learn when dealing with temperatures fluctuating between -1 to 39°F. When continuous melting and freezing cycles occur, it can compromise road integrity through mechanisms like pothole formation and frost heaving, while also creating hazardous driving conditions due to the development of black ice and other icy surfaces. Although there was not a lot of snow this year until late February, there was still a significant effort to keep roads safe from ice formation. It was difficult but necessary to have numerous visits from our current third-party contractor. The winter road maintenance costs have doubled compared to last year. I averaged the past 5 years' expenses to develop the budget but fell short by \$700 due to increased activity. The challenges the contractor faced were plowing on soft roads which did put some gravel & leaf piles at the end of certain runs. In April,

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## ROADS' REPORT, continued

the road crew put effort into raking and shoveling gravel back onto the roads in obvious spots, but this also requires the homeowner to also make that similar effort.

This year we experienced two costly main seal failures on our hydraulic pumps on the grader. Why do pump seals fail? Typically, hydraulic pump seals fail because of high temperature, chemical compatibility, contamination, improper installation, cavitation plus wear and tear. The road crew established a robust maintenance practice which identified some minor leaks and oil loss on these pumps early in the year, and by constantly monitoring the pump seals, it was obvious that the seals were failing due to wear and tear. If the seals were not repaired, pump damage would have occurred. The main tandem pump replacement alone is \$26,000, so prompt action replacing both hydraulic pump seals was required even though it pushed our maintenance cost over target by \$3000. The road crew was able to replace the secondary pump without outside cost, but the main tandem pump needed expertise in Lansing for a total cost for both pump seals of approximately \$8,750, including \$2,000 in hydraulic oil.

Overall, I project being under budget for this fiscal year. Looking forward, we plan to use new technology on our roads in the future. Meanwhile, for the next several years, we will build contingency funds and continue using and maintaining the current grader.

We had great success with dust control by using a single pass, focusing on the main traffic areas, and requiring one fewer dust application than anticipated which provided us with both cost savings and positive environmental influence. The plan for this summer season is to get an established base and reduce applications to four times per year, providing cost relief as well.

Additional spring gravel for the road base will be slightly reduced but will be installed on schedule. Improvement work on drainage and sloping roads will be pushed until after July 1 in the new fiscal year due to budgetary reasons.

The compost area will not be pushed back as frequently as before due to increased wear and tear on our grader as well as volunteer time.

As always,

- Please ensure you manage your yard debris appropriately and when using the compost area, push debris as far back towards South Jackson Road as possible.

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## ROADS' REPORT, continued

- Please keep in mind that members can do their part by keeping their road frontage clear, reporting minor issues before they become major, and helping maintain drainage areas along their roadside property.
  - Please do your part and follow the posted speed limit of 15 miles per hour to help with dust control and hazard awareness.
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## SHORELINE STEWARDSHIP – ANNAMARIE ASHER

At the Spring meeting, I announced that the Lakes Foundation would be buying flats of native plants for people to plant on their shorelines. Over ten people have pre ordered plants. The plants will be picked up from Wild Type Native Plants Nursery in Mason, Michigan, on June 17<sup>th</sup>. I will contact those who have ordered in advance to arrange pick up or delivery. Part of that order will also provide plants for the shoreline restoration underway at the Crystal Lake boat launch.

I am currently in my third year of my own shoreline restoration. The plants are spreading and arranging themselves in sync with their neighbors. It is a freer style of gardening than I am used to, and it requires patience as the plants settle in and spread. But the beautiful natural compositions make it worth the wait, and it is healthy for the lake.

If you are considering a shoreline restoration, or expanding on the native plantings you already have, feel free to contact me via text message at 734-834-4362.

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## CLPL FOUNDATION – DAVE VANDERWORP

The Foundation has been busy this spring. We have supported the following projects:

- The purchase of plants for the native shoreline garden at Crystal Lake access. For members who pre ordered, the plants will be picked up from Wild Type Nursery on June 17<sup>th</sup>. We hope to be able to fund the same for Perch Lake next spring.
- Funding this year's MICORP fees for Crystal and Perch Lakes. Our MICORP volunteers are Wayne Snyder, and Tom and Anne Dyjach.
- Further MICORP training for Tom and Anne at the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association's Annual Conference.
- Support for Dave VanDerworp to attend the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association's Annual Conference.

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## CLPL FOUNDATION, continued

- Support for Dave VanDerworp to attend the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association's Annual Conference.
- The purchase of 15 gallons of flat head minnows to help keep the algae blooms down and to ensure a healthy fish population.
- Help to pay for a consultant to provide overall guidance for our lakes' treatment efforts.

I hope that all of you who supported the Foundation with the purchase of birdhouses have resident bird families. We have a pair of house wrens, and those tiny little birds sure can sing! To the resident who did not claim their winning ticket at our last 50/50 raffle, thank you for your generous donation. We will continue to offer opportunities like this to help fund our efforts. You may also donate directly to us. Our address is CLPL Foundation; P.O. Box 193; Somerset Center, MI 49282

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## ALUMINUM PLATFORMS AVAILABLE

Dan Stevick and John Chappell picked up two aluminum 6' x 6' platforms with rails and a 6' handicap accessibility ramp from a camp in Minnesota. If you would like these items at no charge, please contact Dan (517-688-3679 or [danielstevick@gmail.com](mailto:danielstevick@gmail.com)) or John (909-238-3452 or [C5591j@gmail.com](mailto:C5591j@gmail.com)) and let them know!

**Crystal Lake Perch Lake Property Owners Association Proxy Form**

For the Meeting on July 12, 2025 at Somerset Township Hall

I, the undersigned, being a member in good standing of the Crystal Lake Perch Lake Property Owners Association, hereby appoint:

Name of Proxy: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

as my true and lawful proxy to attend, act, and vote on my behalf at the Crystal Lake Perch Lake Property Owners Association meeting scheduled for **July 12, 2025 at Somerset Township Hall at 10 am** and at any adjournment thereof. This proxy shall have full authority to exercise all powers I would have if personally present, including, but not limited to, voting on all matters brought before the membership, such as the election of officers, budget approvals, and any other business outlined in the meeting agenda.

This proxy is valid only for the meeting specified above and any adjournment thereof, and it shall expire automatically at the conclusion of that meeting unless otherwise specified.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_