



# Lake Life

MMLMD



The Official Newsletter of the  
**MT. MORRIS LAKES MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

**Number 63 – June, 2015**

Tim Dahlstrand Chairman Wautoma, WI 54982	Greg Foster Treasurer Wautoma, WI 54982	Joe Slezak Secretary Wautoma, WI 54982	Denis Sutton Commissioner Wautoma, WI 54982	Robert Adams Commissioner Brookfield, WI 53008	Paul Jarvis Mt. Morris Town Board Rep	Everett Eckstein Waushara County Rep.
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Be sure to access the MMLMD website at [www.mtmorrislakes.org](http://www.mtmorrislakes.org) for expanded new information about the articles published in this newsletter.

## 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Mt. Morris Lakes District Meeting Mountain View Community Center, Saturday, July 18, 2015 - 9:00 am

### 8:00 am: Open Breakfast for all District residents

Meet your lake neighbors over a free breakfast and free talk.

### 9:00 am: Call to Order

- Meeting Agenda Approval; Board & member introductions
- Minutes from July 19, 2014 Annual Meeting - Joe Slezak
- Chairman's Report – Tim Dahlstrand
- Treasurer's Report – Greg Foster

### Presentations & Reports

- Wildfire Prevention – Amy Luebke, DNR
- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Update – Rob Adams
- Lake Endowment Committee Report - Paul Brinkman

### New Business

- Presentation of 2015-2016 Budget – Greg Foster
- Election of a Commissioner – Nominee is Rob Adams for a 3 year term; Nominations can be taken from the floor.
- Other topics for discussion as brought up by the floor

## Endowment Fund Shows Rapid Growth - Paul Brinkman

As of June 15, 2015, more than \$18,000 has been contributed to the Friends of Mount Morris Lakes (FOMML) Endowment since its establishment in the fall of 2014. It's a great start to what the members of the District envisioned as an important effort to secure the future sustainability and ongoing improvements to our lakes. At our last meeting, some members had questions about the significance of the FOMML to the future. A detailed history of the District is posted on our website that sheds light on the background of how and why the FOMML came about. Some new FAQ's from that information:

### ❖ Why do we need FOMML if we can get State Grants?

Because State grant funds may not be available in the amounts needed to support our dam and our AIS treatment needs in the future. The MMLMD owns real property that includes land and the upgraded dam and a portion of the flume. We have to maintain it in good repair and operation. Repair costs of \$20,000 to \$40,000 for items such as slide gates, gate/electrical and concrete repairs could be expected in the next 20 years. In addition, our AIS Lake Management Plan has to continue a combined strategy of mechanical harvesting and chemical treatment. The replacement of harvesting equipment can run up to \$75,000! There is no assurance that DNR grant money will be available to cover this. *Continued on page 2...*

## 10<sup>th</sup> Year of Successful AIS Control: Rob Adams

MMLD has just completed its 10th consecutive year of treatment to control aquatic invasive species in our lakes. Property owners who were part of the planning committee that led to our present AIS grant support from the DNR in 2006 recall that we recommended that, "this treatment activity will likely go on for decades due to the difficulty eradicating AIS once established." Those remarks were prophetic as we complete our first decade of the chemical treatment program

There is good news: Two species of AIS in our lakes...Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) and Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM),, have been contained. Their geographic footprint in our lakes is smaller than it was 10 years ago. Further good news is that we have been fortunate to have financial support of our efforts through our DNR grants, with the good application work done by our consultant partner,, Onterra LLC. Our current 2013 grant reimburses us for 75% of the treatment & lake study costs.

But the battle is not over, and may never be. Now we have confirmation that another AIS is now present in our Lakes... the Zebra Mussel! Also, the EWM has combined with our native species plant Northern Water Milfoil to form a hybrid that behaves like an invasive species because its growth pattern is way more resistant to kill with conventional treatment methods.

The District Board has vowed to remain on top of these challenges. We have a highly qualified and experienced consultant, Onterra LLC., partnering with us in our lake management efforts. We have a commitment to continue our diligence in making sure that AIS will not threaten the quality of our lakes. At the annual meeting we will discuss what each of you can do to assist us in this ongoing challenge. We need every property owner to be engaged if we are going to continue our successful efforts to control invasive species in our lakes.

More information about our AIS Lake Management Plan can be viewed out our District Website: [www.mtmorrislakes.org](http://www.mtmorrislakes.org)

**LOOK FOR MUSSELS HERE**  
 YOU CAN PREVENT THE SPREAD OF QUAGGA AND ZEBRA MUSSELS.  
 CHECK YOUR WATERCRAFT BEFORE ENTERING A WATERWAY!

**CLEAN - DRAIN - DRY**

**MORE FOMML FAQ'S CONTINUED...**

**❖ Why can't we cover those future expenses through all the District taxes and special assessments that we all now pay?**

There are approximately 225 people with taxable property on the lake, and unless we can make more shoreline property like the Chinese build offshore artificial islands, there is a limit to the amount of taxes we all want to pay to cover major expense events. By Chapter 33 Law, a District can only collect tax money to cover its yearly budget, with a limited amount of savings. It can not "bank" huge amounts of funds for the future. That would be over-taxing people. Therefore, we need to establish our own legal savings and investment fund, through a body that is separate from the District budget through the 5013c law. That is what the Endowment Fund accomplishes-savings that grow for future needs of the District.

**❖ If our lake management efforts are successful, shouldn't expenses decrease and level off in the future?**

District projects and AIS responsibilities to conform to state regulations will continue to grow. A new threat to lake quality is always off in the future, and we have to be prepared to meet in. It can be reasonably assumed that MMLMD costs will increase due to inflation. Although AIS came from outside parties, MMLMD is responsible for continued management and control in perpetuity. The current cost of \$30,000 per year to control CLP and EWM... and now Zebra Mussels and hybrid EWM threats, along with sample collections, consultant fees, laboratory analysis... ensure that new expenses will arise, and that inflation on top of that will also enlarge those costs.

**❖ Can't we get volunteers to help out to decrease our costs?**

Willing volunteers are a limited resource and the nature of some tasks limit their involvement from an insurance liability perspective. While MMLMD is a volunteer organization, other lake districts employ large full time staff. We have a few paid seasonal laborers. More staff increases operation costs.

**❖ What can I do to help the Endowment Fund grow?**

Contribute anything you can to grow the fund to reach its goal of \$600,000 over 20 years. Donating \$1000 this year, makes you a charter member. Thanks to those who have donated.

**MT. MORRIS LAKES MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
2015 – 2016 PROPOSED BUDGET,**

ACCOUNT	BUDGET 2014-2015	ACTUAL 2014-2015	PROPOSED 2015-2016
<b>AIS CONTROL</b>			
Treatment Fees	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 23,412.00	\$ 20,700.00
Consulting Fees	5,465.00	11,383.00	6,549.00
Water Testing	250.00	634.00	2,358.00
Permits, Notices	1,510.00	258.00	1,434.00
<b>AP HARVESTING</b>			
Contract Labor	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,865.04	\$ 8,800.00
Parts/Equipment	\$ 300.00	\$ 431.64	\$ 1,100.00
Fuel & Oil	\$ 650.00	\$ 780.08	\$ 750.00
Storage/License	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,600.00
Insurance	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 1,972.00	\$ 2,300.00
Commissioner's Compensation	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 960.00	\$ 1,000.00
Document Archives	\$ 2,695.00	\$ 1,845.00	\$ 3,425.00
Website Fees			
Dam Operation & Maintenance	\$ 910.00	\$ 582.23	\$ 800.00
General Operating	\$ 4,380.00	\$ 4,023.18	\$ 2,350.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$53,460.00</b>	<b>\$ 55,646.17</b>	<b>\$ 53,166.00</b>

**PROPOSED FUNDING SOURCES**

<b>DNR GRANT-AIS</b>	\$ 22,000.00
<b>FROM OPERATING FUNDS</b>	\$ 14,416.00
<b>ASSESSMENT</b>	\$ 16,000.00
<b>INTEREST, LATE FEES, MISC.</b>	\$ 750.00

**TOTAL PROPOSED 2015-2016 BUDGET: \$ 53,166.00**

**Pontoon Boat Parade & Pot Luck July 25, 2015**



Check out the new Mt. Morris Park Pavilion building

- There will be a Mt. Morris Parade on Saturday, July 4.
- Nominations for this position are accepted from the floor.
- Rob Adams is up for re-election at the Annual Meeting.
- sample readings, other projects. Contact a commissioner.
- **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!** For maintaining the habitat restoration at the dam; Taking Secchi disc & water

**At the Mountain View Community Center, HWY 152 & CTS**  
**District Meeting with Free breakfast at 8:00 am**  
**SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2015, 9:00 am - Annual**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

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