

PLATTE LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 272

HONOR, MICHIGAN 49640-0272

August 1, 2009

www.platte-lake.org

THE STATE OF THE LAKE

LAKE WATER CLARITY: Good. Very high secchi readings in spring and falling off as the water warms. See Attached Platte Lake Secchi Depths.

CONSENT JUDGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION: Good. Still meeting on a bi-weekly schedule with either phone conferences or face to face meetings. Great cooperation.

HATCHERY DISCHARGE: Fair. Started out failing 3 month discharge limits in March (61.29 lbs P) and April (60.74 lbs P) versus 55 lb P limit. Now back on track. Per the Settlement Agreement this restarts the five year clock for the lake and river sampling plan i.e. it restarted May 1, 2009. This is an issue that may require a visit to the court.

HATCHERY WATER SAMPLING METHODOLOGY: Resolved. After many years of duplicate sampling effort, we now have demonstrated to everyone's satisfaction that the sigma samplers will be used to calculate Hatchery discharge beginning July 1, 2009. Prior to this we were using a jug and needle until we were able to demonstrate the results were the same. The new sampling method will allow true 24hr/7 day per week sampling.

FALL SALMON RUN: In Compliance. 5029 adult coho were passed upstream from the lower weir. This was well below the allowable 20,000. 181 Adult Chinook salmon were passed versus the 1000 allowed. The low numbers were due to a lack of fish returning to the lower weir.

HATCHERY BIOENERGETICS PROGRAM: Good. Dr. Canale continues to work with the DNR in the review and implementation of his bioenergetics program as a mathematical/engineering basis for optimizing fish production while minimizing phosphorus discharge. The progress to date has been encouraging.

REZONING THE BENZONIA TOWNSHIP PORTION OF PLATTE LAKE: After four years of meetings, discussion, etc. The Benzie County Planning Commission voted July 1, 2009 6-0 in favor of propagating the same zoning as Lake Township adopted in 2005. The zoning still requires approval by the Benzie County Commissioner as Benzonia Township is on county zoning. The latest information I have is that it will be brought before the Commissioners on August 18, 2009. Thanks to all who attended and gave their support which carried the day.

UPSTREAM SUPPORT FOR OUR PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION EFFORTS: We recently made a presentation at an Inland and Homestead Township Joint Planning Commission meeting. We offered our services to the joint Commission for land use modeling and providing our environmental expertise as it relates to analysis and recommendations for future land use permits they may have to decide. We feel this is the best way to help out upstream neighbors and at the same time look out for the best interests of Platte Lake.

DEQ WATERSHED MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD PROGRAM: The DEQ is working on what are known as TMDL's for individual watersheds. It is a big program that specifies how much phosphorus, etc. may be introduced to preserve water quality standards. In an effort to help them out as well as Platte Lake, we have co-authored a peer reviewed paper with Dr. Canale and Gary Whelan of the DNR that describes in detail the amount of upstream phosphorus that can be allowed from all sources and still attain the court ordered 8.0 ug/l Platte Lake phosphorus standard. We are awaiting the completion of the peer review.

PLATTE LAKE FISH PLANTING: The DNR planted a total of approximately 130,000 walleye between and inch and a half and two inches in length. Hopefully we can look forward to an abundance of legal size fish in three years. We must also note that we had a long nose gar removal program four years ago and the minnow population continues to explode! Huge bait balls of minnows appear to be common as opposed to what we experienced in years past.

WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR PLATTE LAKE? (other than pay your dues)

As reprinted from previous years, there are things all of you can do now:

1. Stop lawn fertilization! If you must fertilize, **use phosphorus free lawn fertilizer**. If you have a lawn service, tell them.
2. Remove all beach debris, leaves, etc. and deposit on a back lot, etc. so they cannot re-enter the lake. This is best done in the fall and again in the spring after ice off.
3. If you burn large amounts of brush near the waters edge, pick up the ashes and deposit them where they cannot re-enter the lake. If you do not, you are contributing phosphorus and other plant nutrients to the lake.
4. Have your septic tank pumped yearly if you are a full time resident.
5. **If you have an erosion problem....FIX IT!** Maintain a green belt at the waters edge in an effort to help control erosion problems. When you harvest the green belt to remove phosphorus, deposit the material on a back lot, etc. so that the decayed vegetation cannot re-enter the lake. Also, ensure that you leave the root structure when cutting so you do not kill the plants.
6. Use Lake Water to water lawns and gardens. It is high in nitrogen and it will remove phosphorus from the lake.
7. Encourage your neighbors to do all of the above.
8. Visit new neighbors and encourage them to help us by joining the PLIA. We need everyone who uses the lake involved.
9. If you are a seasonal resident, use RV antifreeze for winterizing toilets and drain traps. Do not use ethylene glycol based automotive anti-freeze. It is toxic.

Again, we all can do something to directly help restore and maintain Platte Lake.

Thank You,

Wilfred J. Swiecki
President, PLIA