

LITTLE PLATTE LAKE ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING
July 11, 2020

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the 2020 annual meeting was held via modern technology. For the first time, members were able to sign in to Zoom and attend the meeting electronically. Dave VanHammen called the meeting to order at 10:11 AM and introduced Jae Gerhart who facilitated the rest of the meeting. Jae gave basic instructions and explained how the meeting would be handled. She then called on each person in attendance asking them to introduce themselves and where they lived on the lake.

Dave introduced our guest speaker, Heather Hettinger, Fisheries Management Biologist for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Heather shared slides with pictures, history, and charts related to our lake. It was interesting to learn that records show the Michigan Department of Conservation stocked Lake Trout and Walleye in Little Platte Lake as early as 1909. Bass, Bluegill and Yellow Perch were also stocked up until 1944. The state stopped stocking fish in smaller inland lakes after World War II when it was determined they could reproduce on their own.

A survey of our lake was completed in 1956 to create a topographic map, which she said is surprisingly accurate, even today. She stated having the court mandated lake level has helped.

The last official fish survey of record that Heather could find occurred in 1981. 504 fish were collected using Fyke and gill nets. Although fish numbers were low, the fish observed were healthy. It was noted that a substantial winter kill had recently occurred and may have been the reason for the lower count.



Heather Hettinger

In 2018 Heather was instrumental in completing a thorough and comprehensive fish survey. Large and small Fyke nets were set for 3 nights in early May. In mid-June, electrofishing transects and two beach seines were conducted. 2,855 fish representing 23 different species were collected during the survey. Results revealed the majority of species recorded were above the Mean Growth Index in comparison to the state average. Only Yellow Perch were below average. Heather was very pleased with the results of the survey and impressed that Smallmouth Bass are growing 2" above the average state rate. Bluntnose Minnows were abundant and are a great forage species for our fishery. Surprisingly a couple of Brown Trout and one White Perch were caught during the survey. She hopes to survey Little Platte Lake again in 10 to 15 years.

Table 2. Fish collected in the Little Platte Lake fisheries survey, May and June 2018.

Species	Number	Percent by number	Weight (Pounds)	Percent by weight	Length range (inches) ¹	Percent legal size ²
Banded Killifish	79	2.80%	0.5	0.10%	1-3	100
Bluegill	141	4.90%	49	8.50%	1-9	79 (7")
Bluntnose Minnow	1,713	60.00%	8.7	1.50%	1-3	100
Brown Trout	2	0.10%	8	1.40%	20-21	100
Bowfin	13	0.50%	53.3	9.20%	19-26	100
Brown Bullhead	24	0.80%	24.3	4.20%	10-14	100
Channel Catfish	9	0.30%	45.3	7.80%	20-29	100
Creek Chub	11	0.40%	0.1	0.00%	2-3	100
Common Shiner	259	9.10%	4.7	0.80%	1-5	100
White Sucker	18	0.60%	45	7.80%	3-21	100
Iowa Darter	33	1.20%	0.1	0.00%	1-2	100
Largemouth Bass	68	2.40%	110.2	19.00%	1-19	54 (14")
Longnose Gar	3	0.10%	5.4	0.90%	2-31	100
Logperch	6	0.20%	0	0.00%	2	100
Central Mudminnow	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	100
Northern Pike	11	0.40%	64.3	11.10%	22-40	73 (24")
Pumpkinseed	46	1.60%	19.1	3.30%	3-9	91 (6")
Round Goby	2	0.10%	0	0.00%	2	100
Rock Bass	126	4.40%	87.7	15.10%	1-12	90 (7")
Smallmouth Bass	10	0.40%	15.4	2.70%	11-16	60 (14")
White Perch	1	0.00%	1	0.20%	12	100
Yellow Perch	231	8.00%	11.2	1.90%	1-12	10 (8")
Yellow Bullhead	48	1.70%	26	4.50%	7-13	100
Total	2,855	100.00%	579.3	100%		

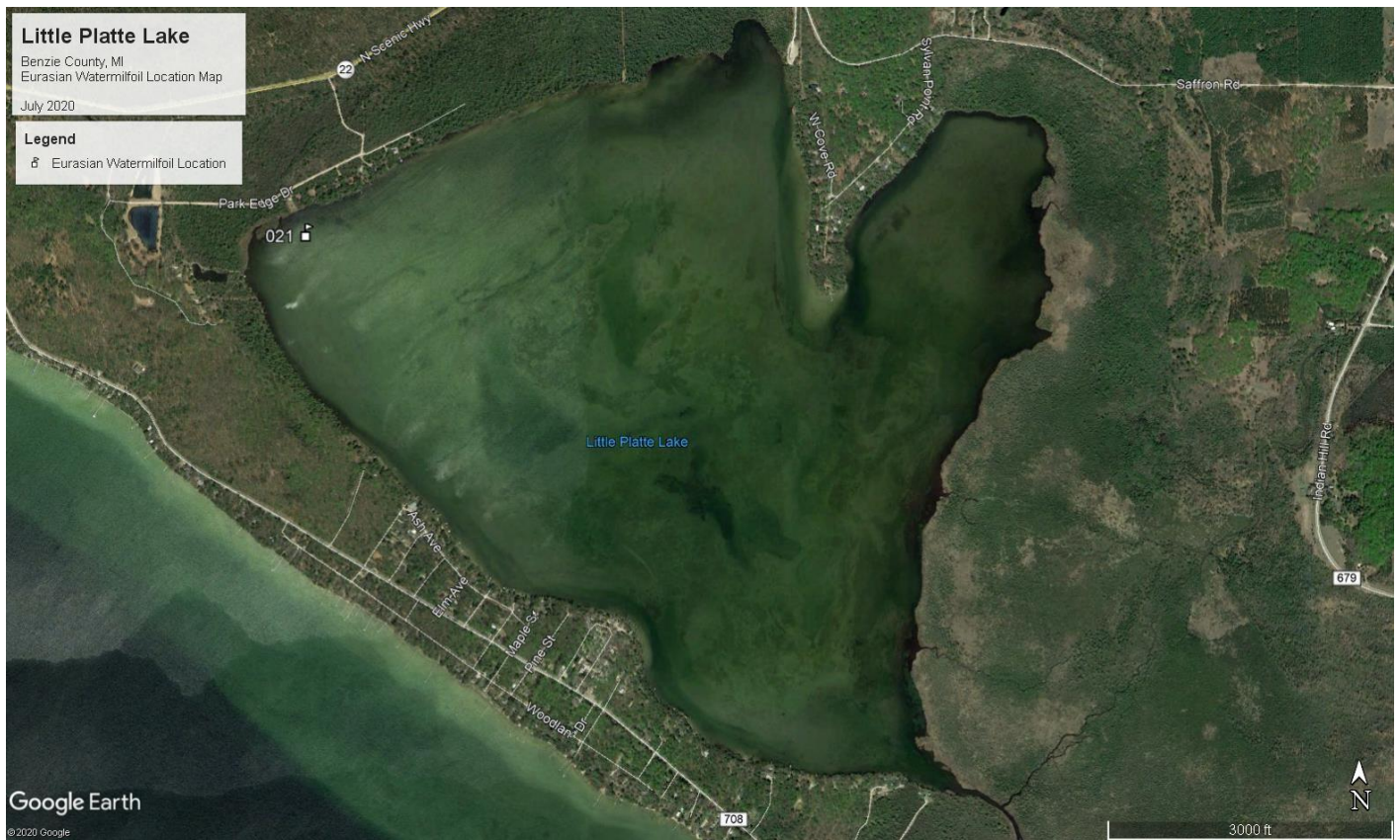
(screenshot of 2018 survey results)

In closing, Heather mentioned the culvert on No Name Creek aka Saffron Creek. Due to the age, condition and the fact that it is undersized, the Conservation Resource Alliance is looking for grant money to replace the existing culvert.

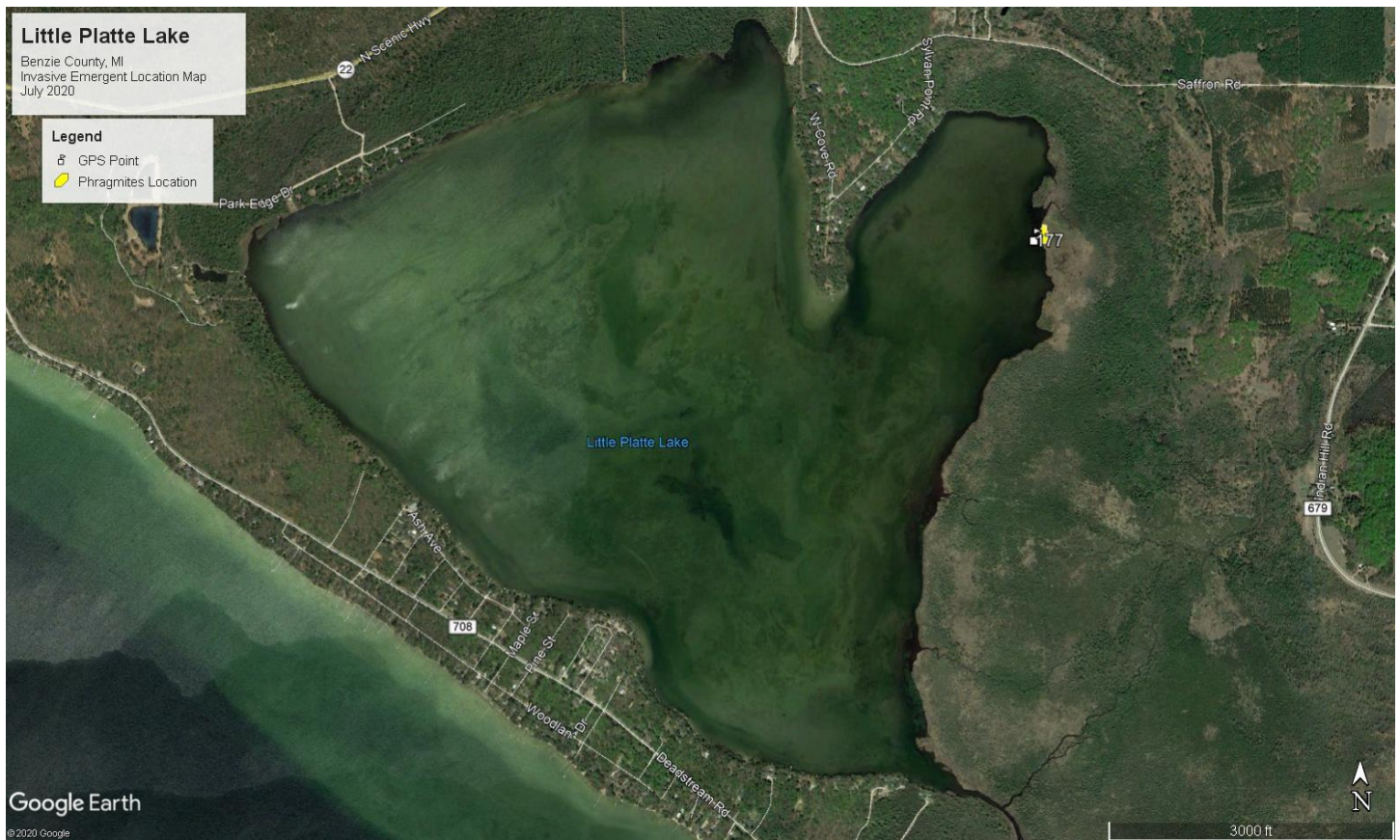
Heather was asked about follow up data from the survey completed by the GTB tribe in 2007. She is trying to get the write up with analyzed data from a colleague. She was also asked about the 2 Round Goby found during the survey. Heather said they are an invasive species that have been in the Great Lakes since the mid 90's. They seem to have plateaued and have become a valuable forage food for a lot of fish species. Still, if you catch one, use it for bait or dispose of it properly.

Secretary Report - Motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes of the LPLA 2019 annual meeting as posted on our website.

Invasive Species Report Jerry Rupley reported very good news. In 2019 about 5 acres of Milfoil was found and treated. Restorative Lake Sciences (RLS) surveyed Little Platte again this week and found only 2 Milfoil plants in the lake. Treatment for Milfoil will not be needed this year. A small patch of Phragmites was still observed at the east end of the lake. A large area of Phragmites was treated last year by the Grand Traverse Conservation District using money from state grants. Jerry contacted the Conservation District and there is no grant money available this year. He is following up on a quote for treatment but it is unlikely that the small patch of Phragmites will be treated this year. Maps were shared showing the 2019 infestation of the Milfoil and Phragmites and the 2020 map showing the significant reduction of both.



Eurasian Water Milfoil map (west side of lake)



Phragmites map (east side of lake)

Treasurer Report - John Ester provided members with the Treasurer's Report reflecting a balance of \$21,070.61 as of May 31, 2020. There is an ongoing concern for the cost of fighting invasive species. Membership dues and gifts are our way of paying for these surveys and treatments. The proposed budget for 2020-21 was also discussed. Motion to accept the treasurer's reports was made, seconded and passed. Copies of both reports will be posted on the website.

Wildlife Report – John shared beautiful photos of this year's loon family. The platform was placed at the west end of the lake in April. The loons were on the nest May 1st and off the nest May 31st with one chick. The chick survived and is growing. The Bald Eagles nest is now down the Deadstream, close to the first turn. They hatched 2 chicks this year. Pictures were also shared of other wildlife including 2 American White Pelicans that temporarily landed on our lake and a bobcat and a pair of Sandhill Cranes at Dunes Edge. John reported no beaver have been trapped. When the trapper came to set his traps, he found that the beavers were not active and he said there was no need to set traps. We will continue to monitor activity.

Water Level Report – Jim Dodge gave the water level report filling in for Lynn Walker. He shared information given him by Lynn along with his own findings this year. In July of 2019 we had a significant rainfall of over 6 inches of rain in 4 days with a record level of 2.8 at the dam. 2 boards were removed and it still took about 3 weeks to get back to the mandated lake level. Boards were added and removed as needed throughout the rest of the summer. The last board was removed Sept 18th completely opening the lake and the level was still at 2.0 showing a slightly higher level through the end of the season. In 2020 the first boards were added April 22nd. Jim shared a chart of recorded levels including dates and number of boards added or removed and rainfall. He monitors the gauge twice a week. He feels the drain commissioner is doing a good job monitoring and keeping the lake level as close as possible to the mandated level.

President's Report – Dave recognized Lynn Walker and thanked him for a wonderful job keeping track of the lake water level over the years during his time serving on the board . He also mentioned the loss last year in the passing of one of the founding members of the association, Chuck Retallick.

Dick and Carole Dills shared that the library in front of the Trading Post will not be functioning this year due to the virus. They plan to resume next year and welcome anyone to drop books off at 8350 Deadstream Rd. and they will add them to the library.

Old Business: none

New Business: Jerry Rupley handled the election of officers. Two board positions were up for election this year. John Ester was nominated to remain on the board as treasurer. The floor was open for comments. As none were made and with no objections, John will continue to serve on the board as treasurer. Jim Dodge was nominated to fill the empty seat left by Lynn Walker. The floor was open for comments. As none were made and with no objections, Jim will serve on the board as Water Level Monitor.

Date for next year is tentatively set for Saturday June 26, 2021

There were 17 members and 2 guests in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Brown, Secretary

July 14, 2020

Little Platte Lake Association

Treasurer's Report December 31, 2019 – July 8, 2020

Starting Balance 12/31/19		\$17,409.67
<u>Receipts:</u>		
Contributions	4,418.72	
Dues Received	<u>3,080.00</u>	
Total Receipts	7,498.72	
<u>Disbursements:</u>		
Membership Paid (MSLA)	120.00	
Invasive Species	3,625.00	
Postage	165.00	
Post Office Box	40.00	
Printing	<u>582.60</u>	
Total Disbursements	<u>4,492.60</u>	
Ending Balance 7/8/20		\$20,415.79

John W. Ester, Treasurer 7/8/20

Little Platte Lake Association

LPLA Proposed Budget 6/1/20 - 5/31/21

	<u>6/1/19 - 5/31/20</u>		<u>6/1/20 - 5/31/21</u>	
	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>	
Income				
Dues/Contributions	\$6,800	\$7,782	\$7,800	
Expenses				
Beavers		500	0	500
Dues Paid (MLSA)	130	120	130	
Education (MLSA Conf.)	100	120	100	
Fees	20	20	20	
Insurance	1,100	1,094	1,100	
Invasive Species	10,500	8,101	6,000	
Materials (Data Base)	25	0	25	
P.O Box	40	40	40	
Postage	165	165	165	
Printing	540	583	580	
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	
Website	100	79	100	
Cash Reserve	<u>-6,420</u>	<u>-2,540</u>	<u>-960</u>	
	\$6,800	\$7,782	\$7,800	

Note: Our account balance on 5/31/20 was \$21,071. If income and expenses for the fiscal year are as forecast in the budget, our account balance on 5/31/21 will be \$20,111.