

For those CLA Members who may be interested:

The next meeting of the OCLRA Board is **9-10:30 a.m. Monday, November 14,** at the ADRC building in Rhinelander, across the parking lot from Trig's grocery. All are welcome.

Topics for Discussion:

Curbing hazardous boat wakes through local ordinances

Are local ordinances the answer to controlling damaging waves from wakeboats? Richard Phillips thinks so. At its October 10 meeting the OCLRA board heard a presentation on hazardous wake ordinance from Phillips, representing the Last Wilderness Alliance (LWA) from Presque Isle. Phillips described township-level ordinances in Sawyer County that prohibit wakes higher than two feet if generated less than 700 feet from shorelines. The LWA made an appeal at the most recent meeting of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board ([view the meeting here](#)) for some form of statewide regulation. However, LWA believes that because statewide regulation is a complex and likely contentious process that could take years, local ordinance are the preferred remedy in the short term. The OCLRA board supports LWA's efforts and will discuss possible initiatives in Oneida County at its next meeting on November 14.

OCLRA supports grant for High-Quality Waters Protection Project

The OCLRA has voted to support a request from Oneida County Land & Water for a \$48,600 grant for High Quality Waters Protection Project. The project includes creation of a classification system for the county's lakes, with the ultimate goal of developing protection measures for each lake class, to include an educational initiative for lakes vulnerable to enhanced wakes from wakeboats, according to Michele Sadauskas, county conservationist. The proposed project will include both lake classification and setting priorities for healthy watersheds and high-quality waters. OCLRA will send a letter of support for the grant to the Wisconsin DNR, provide a representative to an advisory group, and support the project in other ways to be determined.

OCLRA commits support and funds for lake association "Toolbox"

The OCLRA board of directors approved sending this letter of support for the Wisconsin's Greenfire application to the DNR for a grant to support the second phase of the lake protection "Toolbox" project. The support comes with a commitment to contribute \$500 to help fund the project, provided the DNR grant is approved. The "Toolbox" aims to provide information to help small lake associations assess their vulnerability to water-quality and watershed impacts and to guide initiatives to combat identified problems. Prevention is the best option for small lakes, since they have lower "tipping points" beyond which lake rehabilitation becomes difficult. In addition, small lake associations have limited capacity to raise money for lake remediation.

More changes for OCLRA Board of Directors

Tom LaDue of Snowden Lake has been appointed vice president of the OCLRA board. Joe Steinhage of Two Sisters Lake has joined the board as a director. We thank these gentlemen for their commitments to our organization.

Climate change: How it is affecting our waters. What we can do about it.

A new report on climate impacts from the [Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts \(WICCI\)](#) shows that warming temperatures and changing precipitation patterns are affecting Wisconsin's wealth of water resources. The last two decades have been the warmest on record in the state, and the past decade has been the wettest. WICCI is a nationally recognized collaboration of scientists and stakeholders working together to help foster solutions to climate change in Wisconsin. Access the report [here](#).

Wisconsin's Green Fire cites power imbalance in environmental protection

Wisconsin's Green Fire has released the latest in a series of Opportunities Now policy assessments titled, "Imbalance of Power – How Wisconsin is Failing Citizens in Conserving Natural Resources and Protecting our Environment." WGF is a group of conservation professionals and committed citizens dedicated to promoting sciences-based management of the state's natural resources.

"Today, instead of a robust balancing of public interests among stakeholders, a small number of groups representing industry, real-estate, and some agricultural interests now exercise a high level of influence over environmental programs, with direct implications for the health and welfare of Wisconsin citizens," says WGF. You can read the report [here](#).

Oneida County Clean Waters Action proposes zoning change for mining

OCCWA plans to ask towns to consider petitioning the county to change zoning for mining to a separate zone of Industrial Mining, instead of allowing in zones 1A Forestry and General Use, which comprises the bulk of the land in the county. Under this change, an entity wishing to mine in Oneida County would need to apply for a zoning change to the property before commencing. Since towns have input in zoning changes, this would add a layer of town input to the process, creating more local control, OCCWA says.

Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference set for Oct.25-27.

The 2022 Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference will be held October 25-27 at the KI Convention Center in Green Bay. It's a hybrid conference with both in-person and online attendance options. Visit <http://www.umisc.net/>.