



ESLA Newsletter

June, 2007

### President's Message

Dean W. Ginther

I want to welcome Terry Miller as our new Newsletter Editor and Carol Zenas as our new Recording Secretary. Also, Bev McCamman and Thom Yokum have been appointed as Directors at large. Without volunteers, our organization cannot function and I greatly appreciate Terry, Carol, Bev, and Thom for stepping-up to assume these roles. My thanks go out to Audrey Thomas for her many years of meritorious service as Recording Secretary and to Al Wagner for all the service he has provided to ESLA including, most recently, as Editor of the Newsletter.



One of the main reasons ESLA has maintained credibility and influence as a local lake association is because of the high level of membership we have maintained over the years as an organization. This year there is a significant lag in membership renewals, possibly because some of the January Newsletters did not contain a renewal envelop. If you have not renewed for whatever reason, you should have recently received a "reminder" letter. Send your renewal checks and donations to:

**ESLA**

**Attn: Lou Ann McKimney**

**PO Box 8**

**Elk Rapids, MI 49629-0008**

If you renew at more than the minimum level, that will be particularly helpful. Without your membership, we will be less effective in addressing the many challenges that threaten the quality of our lakes and shoreline.

Many of these challenges and issues, such as HB Bills 4463 and 4464, arise quickly, either at the local or State level. It is difficult and costly to keep our membership informed of these emerging issues via our newsletter or postal letters.

Even though the ESLA Web site is updated frequently, most members understandably do not check it on a daily basis. We need a way to contact members quickly and efficiently to inform them of issues that require relatively immediate awareness or attention. Of course, email serves this function well. Unfortunately, our membership database currently contains email addresses of less than 15% of our membership.

One way to show your support for ESLA is to provide your email address. Send an email message to Bob Klingon (rjkingon@prodigy.net) with the subject heading: ESLA. No message in the body of the email is required. We will not release your email address nor will we be sending you unnecessary email.

### Michigan House Bills 4463 and 4464

Would you like a 250 foot long dock with twenty or thirty or more jet skis, boats, and boat hoists adjacent to or near your waterfront property? How do you feel about potentially adding hundreds of additional jet skis and boats on Elk

and Skegemog Lakes? Michigan HB 4463 would permit a dock to be placed at all public road-ends and extend out into the lake 250 feet. The local unit of government could issue permits for boat hoists to be placed on either side of the dock. The space occupied by the docks, boats hoists, and boats would be denied for use by other riparians and members of the public.



HB 4463 would allow the establishment of a marina at every public road end on Elk and Skegemog Lakes. HB 4464 would change the traditional practice of plat proprietors to establish in the plat dedication the uses ascribed to the purchasers of lots within a subdivision.

ESLA urges you to contact your representative and voice your opposition to these bills. Talking points might include any or all of the following:

- Road ends at lakes are usually narrow. Parking by people who have hoists at these "marinas" would result in tremendous congestion in the area.
- Parking congestion would prevent fire engine tanker trucks from accessing lakes and pulling water to fight fires.
- Watercraft using these docks would spill over onto privately owned adjoining riparian property.
- Watercraft dockage would lead to partying in boats, excessive noise and disorderly conduct. (Riparians living next to road ends already report having to pick up trash and broken bottles in the roads and water on a nearly daily basis!)
- There are no toilet facilities at public road ends. Public urination is already a problem on road ends; what would happen if there were marinas?
- Watercraft traffic would make it unsafe for swimmers to use (legally) these sites.

- Although the law says that the first boat hoists must be at least 20 feet from shore, their presence would make it difficult, if not impossible, to launch small fishing boats.
- Passage of this legislation would require the townships to "administer" these services (construct and maintain docks, hold lotteries, charge fees, maintain liability insurance, etc.). Townships are already strapped for money!
- Placement of marinas at road ends would require additional policing by local law enforcement agencies that currently don't have sufficient manpower and funds to monitor boating in inland lakes.

HB 4463 and HB 4464 have been passed out of committee to the full House with a **positive recommendation(!)** but without input from the public against these proposed laws, it is likely that these bills will become law. For more information see the Michigan Lakes and Stream's Position on Road Ends at <http://www.mlswa.org/>. To view these bills, which now are under consideration by the Michigan House of Representatives, go to: <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/> and enter either 4463 or 4464. Please contact your State Rep at [house.michigan.gov/find\\_a\\_rep.asp](http://house.michigan.gov/find_a_rep.asp) and let he/she know why you are against these bills.

### ESLA Annual Meeting

August 18, 2007	Peterman Auditorium
10 A.M.	308 Meguzee Point Road
	Elk Rapids, MI

Featured Speaker — Dr. Kelly Smith

The featured speaker at the upcoming ESLA annual meeting will be Dr. Kelley Smith, Chief of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Fisheries Division. He will be speaking on the *State of the Fisheries*.

Dr. Smith was appointed Chief of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Fisheries Division in June 1998. He is a graduate of Michigan State University, where he earned his B.S. degree in Fisheries Biology and Management in June 1978. He then attended The University of Michigan, where he received an

M.S. degree in Biometrics (applied to fisheries), and a Ph.D. degree in Fisheries Biology and Management.

Coffee and donuts will be available at 9:30 am and the meeting will begin at 10 A.M. with the address of Dr. Smith. It is expected the meeting will finish no later than noon. All ESLA members, potential members, and the general public are welcome to attend. There is no fee for attendance.

### ESLA Annual Picnic

Saturday, July 28  
12 :00 – 2:30 P.M.

Dean and Sharon Ginther  
11228 Shippey Lane  
Rapid City, MI

The ESLA annual picnic this summer will be jointly hosted by ESLA and the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. The intent of this joint meeting is:

- For ESLA members and families to socialize and interact with one another, as in prior years. Children are welcome to attend but must be supervised, particularly near the waterfront;
- For the ESLA Board of Directors and members to interact and socialize with the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Board of Directors and staff;
- To invite selected prospects/donors who might become members of ESLA and/or the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council;
- To provide information about the joint shoreline inventory project between ESLA and Tip of the Mitt;
- To support Tip of the Mitt projects and services.

Please bring a dish to pass for approximately 6-10 persons. Soft drinks, cups, water, baked beans, condiments and hamburgers will be provided. Seating on-site will be limited, so bring a lawn chair or two if you want to be able to sit in a chair.

### Directions to the Picnic

1. From Kewadin or Torch River Bridge, take Cherry Avenue to Ringler Rd.
2. Turn west on Ringler Rd.
3. After about one half mile, turn south on Shippey Lane.
4. Go straight ahead on Shippey Lane about 1000 feet and continue down a small hill into the driveway of 11228.

### **! Don't follow the Y to the left.**

If you go past the pole barn on the right, you have taken the Y left and gone too far south.

About 30 cars can be parked in the driveway area; additional parking is available on either side of Shippey Lane.

### Everybody Produces It and ..... Nobody Wants to Keep It

In our area of Northern Michigan, as in other rural areas around the country, the issue of sewage and septage disposal, pumped from septic systems and holding tanks at residences, has become more complicated recently. By definition, sewage is the entire contents of holding tanks while septage is the liquid remaining after the solid wastes have settled in the tanks. Septage is dispersed in the drain fields of properly functioning home septic systems. For this article, the terms septage and sewage will be used synonymously.

The greatest health concern with septage disposal is the presence of E.coli contamination, which has been measured at dangerous levels in some areas. Medical opinions generally support the proposal that human septage is more dangerous than that from other animals because our diets are varied and people ingest many

drugs and other chemicals with unknown final results. Equally serious but not as immediately dangerous to people is the presence of increased phosphorus from septic systems. Phosphorus at high levels in the lakes and streams results in enhanced growth of pollutants that cause loss of purity and clarity in the water.

Pumping out a septic system typically is recommended every three or four years. Those households with holding tanks only (and there are many) will have to be pumped several times a year during usage. As requirements for septage processing intensify, costs of proper disposal will rise significantly.

Up to now the main procedure for disposal of the "pumped out" septage is to spread the liquid on to agricultural fields in the area usually with an injection of the liquid under the surface of the field to avoid odor and runoff problems. A special injection vehicle is generally used to perform this operation. Winter dispersion, because of frozen ground, presents further problems due to potential runoff and frozen soils.

Recognizing the increasing problems of waste disposal, new Federal and State statutes and protection acts have been enacted to address the situation. It appears that there are overlapping laws, all designed to protect the public but often difficult to understand and apply. Enforcement of any laws will no doubt be affected by available funding here in Michigan. Our understanding of current statutes is that after the year 2010, no more storage tanks (for winter use) will be allowed. Further, in 2025 all sewage and septage material must be delivered to a processing plant and no field disposal will be permitted thereafter.

The Elk-Skegemog Lakes Association (ESLA) has joined with other local associations in support of the new statutes and timetables to stop storage and field dumping/injection of sewage and septage. ESLA will work toward promoting septage disposal at approved treatment facilities rather than the continued storage, dispersal, and injection into the soils of our local townships and counties.

### Homeowner To-do List

As a homeowner, make sure your septic system is up-to-date and regularly pumped out. Next time you contract to have your septic system pumped-out, ask your contractor where the septage is being disposed. Let them know you support the hauling and disposal of your septage at an approved septage treatment facility. Please note that proper disposal of sewage will result in increased pump-out costs for both commercial septage contractors and homeowners.

### Skegemog Wilderness Area

The stewardship committee of the Skegemog Wilderness Area is well on its way to prepping , grooming, improving the markings, clarifying the pathways, nudging the beavers, and enhancing your experience this summer (or winter) on a walk in this incredible area of wildlife and natural beauty.



There will be a workday on Friday, July 6, 2007. Please consider joining this dedicated committee in clearing the pathways. Everyone is needed – whether you just pick up twigs or bring your chain saw and cut up downed trees.

It's a wonderful time to meet people who are all interested in a common cause. Direct questions to Dave Hauser at 231-267-5624.

### Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About ESLA and Elk & Skegemog Lakes

[www.elk-skegemog.org](http://www.elk-skegemog.org) – This Web site is the place for news about our association, its founding, its achievements, committees & leaders. Learn about our water quality, our involvement with government organizations, recreation and safety, and many more helpful items of interest. There's a section with the

physical features of the lakes--things like depth, gallons of water, acres & areas, and even the freeze and thaw dates. Sign on and view the picture gallery that's been created by members just like you.

Please send all your pictures to Dean Ginther at dean.ginther@gmail.com and have them included on the Web page. This is not a run-of-the-mill boring site. It is as dynamic and alive as the waters it represents. Come on – sign on! You'll love it! And be sure to send your comments and questions to g-wiltjer@att.net

### **ESLA MDEQ Grant Update**

ESLA's Water Quality Monitoring grant application has been affected by the recent state-wide freeze on expenditures. Due to State reductions and other priorities, the water quality grant submitted by Thom Yokum on behalf of ESLA has not been funded. In lieu of this grant, ESLA will again be supporting three water quality high school interns this summer from Elk Rapids under the supervision of Thom Yokum. Their efforts will include collecting and analyzing water chemistry data from the Hydrolab probes, flow data for the tributaries and joint efforts with Three Lakes Association to sample bottom-dwelling organisms (amphipods, scuds) that are vital to the food web in our lakes. If you would like to volunteer by providing a boat for a few hours or other short term assistance, contact Thom Yokum at 231-264-6387.

### **More Invasive Species**

Reprinted from the June 1, 2007 Michigan Wetland Action Coalition Newsletter

Memorial Day weekend marked the start of Michigan's tourist season as many travelers made their way to experience and enjoy our many magnificent waters. But, the waters we know and enjoy are being impacted by invaders that have already changed the ecosystem and more threaten to enter our waters if something isn't done soon. As if over 180 invasive species already introduced in the Great Lakes ecosystem wasn't bad enough, one of the latest invaders may significantly alter the summer experience for Michigan's visitors and residents.

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) is a disease that causes fish to bleed internally. Discovered in Lake Huron in 2005, the disease spread and recently was discovered in Budd Lake, an inland lake in Clare County (in the northern part of the Lower Peninsula). Confirming Department of Natural Resources biologists fear, the disease was recently identified in dead fish on the shores of Wisconsin on Lake Michigan.

VHS is a disease that has the potential to devastate entire fish populations. There is no known cure or vaccination. VHS is not a native disease and like so many other aquatic invaders, is suspected to have been delivered to our waters in the ballast of ocean-going vessels.

Michigan's Natural Resources Commission introduced draft regulations to try to prevent the spread of this disease at their May meeting. These regulations will be voted on in June. Anglers must make certain that fish they catch in VHS-infected waters are not released into any waters that have been listed as free of VHS. The transport of bait is also prohibited. Anglers must also make certain that bait obtained from a VHS-positive area be used only in another VHS-positive area.

Meanwhile, Federal legislators continue to drag their feet on a bill that would help stop the flow of invasive species. The National Aquatic Invasive Species Act (S. 725), introduced by Senator Carl Levin (D-MI), would enact national ballast water laws that will require appropriate treatment for ballast to kill any potential invasive species before they can be dumped into the Great Lakes. This comprehensive legislation would initiate a plan to help prevent and control invasive species that enter the Great Lakes in the future.

There is far too much at stake to wait any longer to respond to the tide of invasive species. It is essential for the federal government to act swiftly to prevent new introductions. Contact your member of Congress and let them know that you want to see comprehensive aquatic invasive species legislation enacted to ensure our Great Lakes heritage and way of life is protected for future generations to enjoy.

The Michigan Wetland Action Coalition (www.michiganwetlands.org) is a project of the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council (http://www.watershedcouncil.org/).

## Proposed ESLA Bylaws Revisions

There are several minor proposed revisions to the ESLA Bylaws which are currently under consideration by the Board of Directors. These changes, if approved by the Board, will be presented at the annual meeting. To examine the proposed changes within the context of the existing Bylaws, go to the ELA website under the tab "about ESLA". The specific proposed changes are listed below. Deleted text is strikethrough and added text is bold.

### ARTICLE IV – ZONES

Section 1: Purpose. ~~Four zones shall be established for the election of representatives of the Board of Directors.~~

**Five zones shall be established for the election of representatives of the Board of Directors.**

Section 2: Description of zones.

- 2.1 Zone A shall include the ~~area~~ **Elk Lake shoreline** beginning west of Milton-Elk Rapids Township line continuing south on Elk Lake to the north side of the Antrim-Grand Traverse County line.
- 2.2 ~~Zone B shall include the area beginning east of the Milton-Elk Rapids Township line and continuing south to and including the entire west bank of Torch River.~~ **Zone B shall include the Elk Lake shoreline beginning east of the Milton- Elk Rapids Township line and continuing south on Elk and Skegemog Lakes to the south end of Torch River.**
- 2.3 Zone C shall include the Elk Lake Shoreline ~~area~~ north of the Grand Traverse-Antrim County line to the west bank of Battle Creek.
- 2.4 ~~Zone D shall include the area from the east bank of Battle Creek to and including the~~

~~entire east bank of Torch River.~~ **Zone D shall include the Elk shoreline starting east from the east bank of Battle Creek and continuing along the Elk and Skegemog shorelines to the south end of Torch River.**

- 2.5 **Zone E shall include the shoreline along both banks of Torch River and the shoreline along both banks of the Rapid River up the dam at Rugg Pond.**

### ARTICLE V – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: The Board of Directors shall conduct the business affairs of the Association.

Section 2: Composition. Each member of the Board of Directors shall have full voting rights and the Board shall consist of the following:

#### 2.1 Directors-Zone

- a. Four Directors shall be elected by the Membership in Annual Session from the membership of each zone. ~~Two terms shall begin in the odd year, two in the even.~~ **Terms shall be two years for all Directors.**
- b. Extra representative. One extra Board member shall be elected by the Membership in Annual Session from the zone having the largest proportion of members in comparison to the other zones. ~~This shall be a one year term.~~
- c. ~~Zone Chairman~~ **Captain**. One Director shall be designated as ~~Chairman~~ **Captain** of each zone by the President.

### ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

3.5 The Corresponding Secretary shall handle the mailing, ~~and~~ correspondence, **collection of membership applications, and distribution of membership dues and information for the Association.**

**ARTICLE VII – NOMINATING AND ELECTION**

Section 1: Nominating and election. Nominations for all Officers and Directorships shall be made by the Nominating Committee. Also, nominations may be made from the floor by members in the Annual Meeting providing prior indication of willingness to serve has been given by the individual being nominated and that individual is a regular member.

- 1.1 Should the members in the Annual Meeting fail to confirm any individual within a zone, then further nominations shall be made from the floor, but such nominations must be members from within the zone.
- 1.2 Candidates shall be voted on at the Annual Meeting; a majority vote of the members present and voting shall constitute election.
- 1.3 ~~The term of office of all Directors and Officers shall be from September 1 through August 31. The two year~~ **terms of office of all Directors and Officers shall begin on September 1 in an even calendar year.**

Section 2: Filling a vacancy. Should any Director or elected Officer, for any reason, be unable to fill out the term of office, the Board of Directors shall fill the vacancy within thirty (30) days, providing the designated individual meets with the particular requirements of that office.

- 2.1 Should the Board of Directors replace an officer or director prior to the completion of their term, the newly appointed officer or director would be appointed for the remainder of the two year term.**

**ESLA Board of Directors and Officers Meeting**

The next ESLA Board of Directors and Officers meeting is scheduled for July 6, Friday, from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm at the Elk Rapids library. The focus

of this meeting will be: 1) planning for the annual picnic and annual meeting and; 2) discussion on the future of ESLA (priorities, process, structure, and resources).

**Elk-Skegemog Lakes Association**

**OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND APPOINTEES**

**2006-2007**

**Revised: 6/1/2007**

**OFFICERS**

Dean Ginther            President  
11228 Shippey Lane  
Rapid City            322-6286  
dean\_ginther@tamu-commerce.edu

Vice President

Carol Zenas            Rec. Sec.  
  
7806 Hoiles Dr.  
  
Williamsburg        267-5764  
  
sczenas@torchlake.com

Lou Ann McKimmy Corr. Secretary  
8824 Penahguhme  
Rapid City            264-5653  
mama7@chartermi.net

Mike Hamilton        Treas.  
P.O.Box 267  
Kewadin                264-6757  
mbhejh@chartermi.net

## ZONE DIRECTORS

### ZONE A

Ron Gurdak Captain  
8969 Cairn Hwy  
Elk Rapids 264-6581  
rongurdak@chartermi.net

Bill Larson  
11309 Hanel Rd.,  
Elk Rapids 264-6183  
walarson@charter.net

Valerie Rehrer  
8323 Cairn Hwy  
Elk Rapids 264-9268  
valrehrer@aol.com

Terry Miller  
815 Millers Park  
Elk Rapids 264-  
8636  
tmiller@elfstonemusic.com

### ZONE B

Gene Ferries Captain  
8612 Ridge Rd.  
Rapid City 264-9524

Bob Kingon  
10202 East Elk Lake Dr.  
Rapid City 322-6055  
rjkingon@prodigy.net

Kent Reynolds  
8534 Ridge Rd  
Rapid City 264-8360  
kentreynolds@chartermi.net

### ZONE C

Kathy Dimercurio Captain  
535 Sixth St.  
Traverse City 49684  
946-1687  
kathygets@charter.net

Jim Curnow  
10183 Miami Beach  
Williamsburg 267-  
5613 jbcurnow@webtv.net

Bruce Butler  
10305 Elk Lake Trail  
Williamsburg 267-  
8769

Jerry McKimmy  
9821 Elk Lake Trail  
Williamsburg 264-5114  
jmckimmy@aigfinanciadvis  
or.com

### Zone D

Stan Zenas Captain  
7806 Hoiles Dr.  
Williamsburg 267-5764  
sczenas@torchlake.com

Tom Klingler  
7772 Hoiles Dr.  
Williamsburg 267-  
9352 klingler3@earthlink.net

Dave Hauser  
9240 Skegemog Pt. Rd.  
Williamsburg 267-5624  
dave@davehauser.net

Julie Courtade  
9327 Fairview Av.  
Williamsburg 922-1420  
jkcourtade@hotmail.com

### Zone E

Terry Woods Captain  
8211 Aarwood Trail NW.  
Rapid City 322-6075  
woodse301@aol.com

Susan Grimes Munsell  
8067 Aarwood Trail NW  
Rapid City 322-2086  
[sgmcpa@charter.net](mailto:sgmcpa@charter.net)

## APPOINTED DIRECTORS

Beverly McCamman  
128 Mitchell St  
Elk Rapids 264-8691  
EBMcCam@aol.com

Glory Wiltjer Web Site Mgr  
8109 Skegemog Point Rd.

Williamsburg 267-5522  
g-wiltger@worldnet.att.net

Thom Yocum Water Quality  
8447 N. Bayshore Dr  
Elk Rapids 264-6387  
kstyocum@aol.com

Terry Miller Newsletter Editor

815 Millers Park Road  
Elk Rapids 264-8636  
tmiller@elfstonemusic.com

## DIRECTORS-HONORARY- PAST PRESIDENTS

Mary Anne Rivers  
2004-2006  
7943 Skegemog Point Rd.  
Williamsburg 267-5058  
mrivers@netonecom.net

Al Wagner 2001-2004  
10136 East Elk Lake Dr.  
Rapid City 322-4109  
bigalwag@charter.net

Bob Bremer 1995-1997  
13862 Ringler Rd.  
Rapid City 322-6120  
rapidrobert@torchlake.com

Ed Krigbaum 1992-1995  
8465 Drake Lane  
Williamsburg 267-5164  
ekrig@aol.com

Lou Wood 1989-1991  
10812 Innis Lane  
Williamsburg 264-5648

Stan Holzhauser 1984-1987  
13157 Rex Terrace Dr.  
Rapid City 322-2594

**Zip Codes**

Elk Rapids 49629  
Kewadin 49648  
Rapid City 49696  
Williamsburg 49690

**ESLA Web Site**

www.elk-skegemog.org

**Mailing Address**

**ESLA**  
**P.O. Box 8**  
**Elk Rapids, MI 49629**

**Membership**

**Elk-Skegemog Lakes Association  
Membership Application/Renewal**

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: Regular--\$15; Captain -- \$25;  
Commodore -- \$50; Admiral -- \$100

**Membership donations at higher levels are  
most welcome.**

Please send this application and your check to:

**ESLA Membership**  
**Attn: Lou Ann McKimmy**  
**PO Box 8**  
**Elk Rapids, MI 49629-0008**



**ESLA**  
**P.O. Box 8**  
**Elk Rapids, MI 49629**  
**[www.elk-skegemog.org](http://www.elk-skegemog.org)**