



AQUA-TALK



**"Professionals Preserving Aquatic Environments Today...
for Tomorrow."**

Volume 16, Issue 1

Governmental Affairs/Aquatic Politics

Politics, they seem to never end! I thought Professional Lake Management was an aquatic plant management company. Well, we still are, in fact, one of the most diversified company's in the business. However, in order for us to continue to deliver you the best options, low cost and quality results we must continue to work within the political arena!

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about new DEQ rules that have been approved and new legislation that is being proposed. There is nothing we can change regarding the new rules, but we may be able to influence how they are interpreted. If you decide that the new rules are not in our best interest then you can support the new legislation that would supercede these new rules. Michigan Aquatic Managers Association (MAMA) tried to get new legislation passed during the 2002 season and failed. MAMA realized that its voice, speaking on your behalf, was not loud/good enough to make our case. Therefore, the strategy for the 2003 season has changed. Please read the following information for an explanation!

Political Synopsis:

During the 2001 season: The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) presented changes to Rule 368 which were considered less than ideal to most riparians. Many lake associations, riparians and applicators voiced their concerns to their legislators. Subsequently, the proposed 368 rule changes were withdrawn by the DEQ.

December of 2002: The Michigan Aquatic Managers Association (MAMA) developed new legislation intended to streamline the permit process, define requirements of aquatic plant management to relevant information and to provide a fair system of compliance enforcement. While in committee, this bill was quickly manipulated into a bill that lost it's true intent. Also, differences in language could not be agreed upon in a timely manner for passing through the Senate.

January of 2003: The same controversial 368 rules package that was withdrawn a year ago was once again presented to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) during the recent legislative and governor change-over and without PLM's or other concerned parties knowledge. The rules package was submitted on the last day possible to comply with rule governing hearings. The DEQ rules package completed four legislative steps in one day before being submitted to JCAR. JCAR, after hearing mainly from the DEQ and other environmentalists, ruled to allow the rules package to be implemented.

March 14, 2003: The 368 rule changes where implemented! *(Continued on Page 2)*

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PLM News

Woods Lake Association in Kalamazoo was the winner of our Fall/Winter raffle for getting their permit information and contract back by our requested deadline. The prize consists of \$1000 of free management for the 2003 season. Thank you to everyone who returned their info on time!

We are pleased to announce 2 new additions to the PLM Staff. Justin Nawrocki and Jamie Stahl have come on board with PLM. Justin has a degree in Environmental Science with an emphasis in Water & Aquatic Ecology from the University of Idaho. Justin has also completed research at Michigan State University involving comparing land use and its affect on lake ecosystems. Jamie has a degree in Industrial Technologies from Central Michigan University. Jamie is a wood shop teacher at Fruitport Middle School, and will be working with PLM during the summer months. Justin and Jamie will be getting their certification in pesticide application this spring.

PLM Vice President Jason Broekstra has been named the new Secretary/Treasurer for the Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society for 2003.

PLM's Stephanie Mervau had a baby girl this past February!! Reese Laredo Mervau was born on February 23, 2003. We are proud to announce that both mommy and baby are doing well!

Governmental Affairs/Aquatic Politics Continued...

How could these new rules affect us?

Based on comments from lake associations the first time these rules were proposed, when we had the opportunity to voice our opinions, there were a few common concerns:

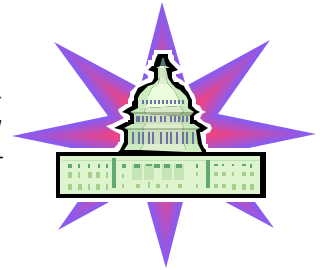
Specifically the new rules may:

- ? Create additional administrative burdens and additional expense for those seeking aquatic plant control permits for whole lake treatments. For example fisheries evaluations, water quality analysis and watershed data. These are services that we do provide based on specific recommendations and/or lake associations requests. PLM does not agree with making these a standard for a whole lake management plan but it is now rule. Now we need to campaign for the DEQ to implement these evaluations with discretion. **See "Campaign for realistic requirements."**
- ? Restrict access to the use of tools and technologies needed to prevent the degradation of lakes, ponds and reservoirs. We currently have new technology and data that will allow us to improve our abilities to control exotic species such as Eurasian watermilfoil. The new rules mandate a treatment regimen (6PPB) for Fluridone applications where the US Army Corps of Engineers has stated that this is the "threshold of failure". Even at a threshold of failure, Fluridone is the best product we have for controlling EWM. Fortunately, it has much more potential for providing long-term control. The DEQ will allow for evaluation treatments to incorporate this new technology but it is a difficult task of actually getting their approval. We need to campaign!
- ? Increase additional time delays to the permitting process without a defined penalty to the DEQ if they go over the time limit allowed to process permit (30 working days). We believe the DEQ has made some progress in streamlining the permit process, but if they continue to neglect their own rules, there should be consequences. A common solution that has been discussed is to impose a 30-day deadline. If the DEQ does not meet the deadline, and the permit application is complete, then the permit is automatically approved.

Discussion "PLM & PLM Customers Political Goals"

There are three main points that PLM wants to improve regarding working relationship with the DEQ.

1. Improve the DEQ turn around time for issuing a permit application.
2. Develop a structure that would not allow the DEQ to require data that is irrelevant to the issuance of a permit application. If additional relevant information is required it must also be financially feasible. If not financially feasible it will encourage riparians to apply herbicides without DEQ consent and may reduce our ability to efficiently manage our water resources.
3. Form a realistic checks and balances procedure to allow enforcement of permit compliance.



"The Big Picture in the Eyes of PLM"

We first need to step back and take a look at the true end goals of the DEQ, DNR, ML&S, MUCC and PLM, etc. (organizations interested in the quality of our water resources). PLM believes that all of our end goals are one in the same or at least complement and not contradict each other. What is that end-goal? To protect our water resources, water quality, plant communities, fisheries, public health, recreation and aesthetic values. This is PLM's goal! Let's remember this goal and not let bureaucracy reduce our ability to reach these goals. (Continued on Page 4)

Posting Fees for 2003

Unfortunately, posting fees will once again be in effect for the 2003 season. We will be using the same structure as in 2002, with no price increase. The DEQ has not changed their posting requirements therefore, the additional fees must be assessed. The posting fees are not in your contract, therefore please refer to price breakdown below for cost associated with your water body. The following is the cost breakdown for posting signs for algae treatments during the 2003 season. Minimum cost is based on surface acreage of lake or pond. Lakes will also require an additional \$1.00 per acre of treatment, per application. To make any adjustments or discuss payment options, please contact our office.

Ponds:	0 to 1 acre = \$10.00
	1 to 5 acres = \$15.00
	5 to 10 acres = \$25.00
Lakes:	10 to 100 acres = \$50.00 Minimum + \$1.00 for each acre.
	100 to 500 acres = \$75.00 Minimum + \$1.00 for each acre.
	500 acres and bigger need to be negotiated.

To make things easier for you, while you are watching us spray from your house, we will be using "Green" signs for algae treatments and "Yellow" or "Red" signs for treatments that have restrictions. PLM will continue to keep you updated on posting fees and any changes that may occur.

Industry News & Updates

DNR Fisheries Biologists Warn of Potential Fish Kills

State Fisheries officials are warning residents that conditions may be leading to fish kills in many Michigan lakes this spring. The predicted fish kills are related to the recent weather shifts from a long, cold winter to above normal spring-like temperatures.

State Fisheries Biologist Todd Grischke said recently, "Most Michigan lakes have been locked under ice and snow for months, which can lower dissolved oxygen levels in the water and stress fish. The abrupt warming trend of the past few weeks has the potential to raise lake temperatures too quickly, further stressing the fish and potentially causing some die-offs in a variety of water bodies".

If you have questions, comments or concerns about your lakes fish populations, please contact Steve Hanson at 616-891-1294.



Lake Wide Aeration — New Technology at PLM!

PLM is in the process of recommending lake wide aeration to a few lakes in West Michigan. Aeration is the process of adding dissolved oxygen to the bottom waters of a lake or pond. By adding dissolved oxygen to specific lakes that usually have de-oxygenated water can greatly benefit a lake's ecosystem. When dissolved oxygen is present or increased, it will assist in reducing the internal loading and the recycling of phosphorus concentrations in the lake. By using aeration we would be able to slow down or stop eutrophication, end the vicious cycle of internal loading, and stop the "band-aid" approach of treating a system's algae growth year after year. Some benefits of aeration include; increase in water clarity, decrease in planktonic algae, improved water quality, reduction in nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrates, decrease in coliform bacteria, and increased aesthetics of the lake. The development of this concept and new technology holds great potential for Michigan lakes! We will keep you updated on the progress and results of this innovative technology.

Biological Control Agent for West Nile Virus

Just because you live on a lake or pond does not necessarily mean you are more likely to have a larger mosquito population. Most mosquitoes prefer stagnant pools of water in which to lay their eggs. These stagnant pools can include lake bayous, drainage ditches, temporary ponds and puddles, old tires, and even clogged roof eaves. Eliminating as many potential sites for mosquitoes to lay their eggs as possible is the first step to reducing mosquito numbers. To help with the fight against those nasty bugs, PLM now offers a biological control agent (Vectobac) that targets larval mosquitoes. Vectobac utilizes a spore form of naturally occurring soil bacteria. The larvae ingest the bacteria, which in turn disrupts the gut of the mosquito larvae leading to death within 24 hours. Larvicides, like Vectobac, are a great preventative measure to control mosquito populations. Vectobac comes in both a liquid and granular formation for your desired application. Contact Steve at PLM to find out more information.

Renovate Update!

Renovate is a selective systemic herbicide, and unlike 2,4-D it does not have drinking water well restrictions associated with its use. SEPRO, the manufacturer of Renovate, has obtained full EPA registration and will offer the product for spring. Renovate contains the active ingredient Triclopyr which is commonly used in turf management products. Renovate will be extremely useful in the ongoing fight with Eurasian Watermilfoil. There are no fishing restrictions and the irrigation restriction reads "Do not use treated water for irrigation for 120 days, treated water may be used for irrigation once the Triclopyr level in the intake water is determined to be non detectable by lab analysis. There is no restriction on use of water from the treatment area to irrigate established grasses." The DEQ predicts the product will be available for use as early as May. Once Renovate has been approved for use, many PLM accounts will be amended for this product.

Does Curly Leaf Pond Weed Have You Down?

Professional Lake Management is continuing to investigate new techniques to help reduce this invasive exotic plant in your lakes. Recent research suggest early spring or fall treatments with Aquathol K, before the reproductive turions "seeds" are produced, may reduce the abundance and reproductive capacity of Curly leaf pondweed. If your lake is suffering due to Curly leaf pondweed, we may be contacting you about an early spring treatment soon.



Summer Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Friday

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Phone: (616) 891-1294

(800)-382-4434

www.prolakemgmt.com

Governmental Affairs/Aquatic Politics Continued...

Where are we today regarding PLM & our customer's political goals!

The new DEQ 368 rule changes may have satisfied PLM's #1 concern regarding the permit turn around time by implementing new "general permit" classifications. Also, permits will not be required for ponds of certain sizes. The DEQ rule changes state the DEQ will return a permit application within 30 days unless it is incomplete. If the DEQ will uphold their new rule of 30 days, PLM's customers should be very happy.

PLM's goal #2 is to develop a structure that would not allow the DEQ to require unreasonable data. This will require a campaign "**The Campaign for Realistic Requirements**" in order for the 368 rules to satisfy our goal.

PLM'S goal #3 is to form a realistic checks and balances procedure to allow enforcement if permit compliance is not addressed in the 368 rule changes.

New legislation that has been derived from last years Bill 5958 has been proposed and will cover our goals. We believe that with realistic/good faith participation of all parties concerned with our water resources, we can implement this new legislation. This participation would allow for clear, defined, realistic management of our water resources. New legislation bill identification numbers have not yet been established.

Recommendations to YOU!

Option #1: "The Campaign for Realistic Requirements" contact your State Representative and Senators, ML&S, MUCC, DEQ, DNR, etc. and voice your opinion regarding the management of your lake. PLM will assist you any way possible but this is your fight, your voice!

Option #2: Support the new legislation and put pressure on the DEQ to listen to your campaign. If the DEQ does not listen and implement requirements that are not financially feasible and/or just an irrelevant waste of time then continue to support the development of the new legislation. This new legislation is written for you! If you do not voice your opinion to state legislators, agencies and other organizations to support this new legislation, it will fail! PLM is here to support you and your decisions regarding this legislation, it was written for YOU!

Option #3: Based on questionable and unproductive relationships of working with the DEQ in the past, forget about the campaign and just support the new legislation, which is in all of our best interest.

How to make contact:

The MAMA web site also provides all the State Representatives and Senators, addresses and e-mails: www.mamagroup.org

Department of Environmental Quality Inland Lake & Remedial Action Unit

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Email: deq-lwm-anc@michigan.gov

Member of ML&S Michigan Lake & Streams Associations

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Email: info@mlswa.org

Department of Natural Resources

K.L. Cool, Director
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Lansing, MI 48909

Department of Natural Resources

Kelly Smith, Fisheries Division Chief
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Lansing, MI 48909

Michigan United Conservation Club

P.O. Box 30235
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Website: www.mucc.org



Bottom Line:

It is up to you!!! PLM will support you in everyway possible; education, financially, time, etc. Whatever option you choose, and you must choose one fashion or another; you must voice your opinion to your local Representatives, Senators, DEQ, DNR, ML&S, MUCC etc. Please send PLM a copy of all correspondence that you have with any of the above organizations or representatives. *Thank You!*



We are now accepting credit cards for all payments. We are also offering online statements. If you would like your invoices emailed to you or have any questions, please email Suzanne at suzanne@prolakemgmt.com.

