



Platte Lake Improvement Association

P.O. BOX 272
HONOR, MICHIGAN 49640-0272
www.plattelake.org
December 12, 2017

Dear PLIA Member:

As I write this, the ice is just beginning to form on the edges of Platte Lake. It has been a busy 2017 for your Officers and Board and I want to take a few minutes to bring you up to speed on the highlights of what we have accomplished and what we are working on going into 2018.

- The lake and river sampling plan continued in 2017 with the Benzie Conservation District (BCD) contracted to sample eight upstream tributary locations and Platte Lake at eight depths every two weeks. The lake was last sampled on October 30, 2017 and with the boats now in storage, the lake will not be sampled again until we have “safe ice”. We are very happy with the latest Platte Lake phosphorus levels of 6.672 micro-grams per liter going into winter (the standard is 8.0 micro grams per liter 95% of the time)! That hopefully gives us a great start going into 2018 with low phosphorus levels!
- As a direct result of our tributary sampling over the years i.e. continuous bi-weekly data since 1990, we have identified a potential source of phosphorus in Section 13 of Homestead Township that may explain the mysterious increase in Platte River phosphorus levels that began in 2013 (See Page 20 John Ransom PLIA Annual Meeting presentation on PLIA web site). The investigation/analysis is continuing and we will be sharing our findings with the MDEQ permitting activities. We will keep you posted as to where this is heading.
- As mentioned previously, we still have a problem with an unidentified source(s) of phosphorus upstream of Indian Hill Road on the north branch of the Platte River. Any and all insight is appreciated. One of the problems is there are so many different activities issuing permits and they do not report/communicate to any one central activity. We are working on understanding that effort as is the BCD. It is our opinion that we need one activity that is fully aware of all the land use, fertilization, sewage disposal and discharge permits, etc. that may have an impact on the 192 square mile upstream Platte River watershed as well as the rest of Benzie County. I feel that activity is the BCD. What can be done electronically today should make it an easy thing to do. At the moment it does not exist. We are working on it.
- As previously reported, the fourth amendment to the Consent judgment was entered in April of 2017. We have been working with the MDNR on a continuing effort to update procedures, etc. to ensure ongoing compliance with the discharge limits. Hatchery discharge YTD is 117 lbs P. We expect them to be in compliance with the 150 lb. P Discharge limit by year end. Additionally, the fall salmon run was in compliance with 17,665 Adult coho released to migrate upstream of the lower weir on a 20,000 limit.
- We applied for a MDEQ grant in partnership with the Benzie BCD in September of 2017. We were not awarded any money, but it was a great learning experience for us and only cost our time and effort...donated! The reason we partnered with the BCD was the fact that in order to

apply for a grant, you must have had a recent audit by a Certified public accountant. The PLIA did not have one at the time.

- The PLIA promptly commissioned Dan Smith and Company, Certified Public Accountants located in Gaylord, MI to perform an audit of the PLIA books for calendar year 2016. In summary, their audit indicated that the financial statements, etc. provided to them fairly represent in all material respects, the assets, liabilities and net assets of the Platte Lake Improvement as of December 31, 2016. Their report is nine pages long. Please get back to us with any questions. Bottom line is we can now apply for grants in the name of the PLIA. The last grant we had was to fund a "Clean Lakes" study/report in 1981-1983 that was sponsored by Lake Township.
- We have had two years of sampling for swimmer's itch parasites and both years the results have tested positive for Platte Lake. The main culprits are merganser ducks. They are critical in the life cycle of the parasite. Without mergansers, the problem goes away. We are soliciting proposals to deal with the problem. This is something Crystal Lake as well as others lakes in the state have been actively engaged in. We will keep you posted.
- Part of what we were looking to do with potential grant money was to map Platte Lake as well as the upstream watershed to identify changes in land use, weed growth, shoreline and river bank issues as well as unidentified discharges in the upstream 192 square mile watershed. As mentioned earlier, our request for funding was rejected. The BCD is sending personnel for drone pilot training and ultimately intends to purchase a drone(s) to perform such surveillance on year to year basis to identify and evaluate changes. This would be giant step forward in managing the watershed to protect Platte Lake. It is a step we intend to take with them. We will keep you informed.
- In May of 2017 a permit was applied for to expand an existing canoe livery located just downstream of Honor on the Platte River. They requested to dredge a channel for canoe removal, etc., etc. The PLIA objected to the dredging, the location for dredged material deposition, the lack of reinforcement of the dredged channel as well as the lack of analysis of the dredged material. All of PLIA objections were honored by the MDEQ in the final permit. The modifications to the canoe livery if implemented will make the livery more environmentally neutral.
- The Platte Lake Temperature data that Dr. Canale had analyzed May through September from 1990 to 2014 has been updated by John Ransom of the BCD to include the data collected from 2015 through 2017. The data indicates that since 1990, Platte Lake continues an ever so slight cooling trend. We feel this fantastic news as it is one less uncontrollable issue we have to address in our efforts to restore Platte Lake.

We hope this gives you some insight into what we have been doing on your behalf for Platte Lake. If anyone would like additional information or the backup material for any of the reports, etc. that were mentioned, please get back to us and I will get that information to you ASAP. I just need your email address. Also, we still need your financial support to continue doing what we do. Send in your dues and any and all contributions. If you feel you can volunteer to help the PLIA in "any way", please let us know.

Thank You for Your Support,

Wilfred Swiecki
President, PLIA