

Three Lakes Association
Annual Meeting August 21, 2014
President's Message

It's been a year since we were last together, and a lot has happened. Last fall, the Large Woody Debris project went forward in the Grass River. TLA assisted in this project both financially and practically – by establishing a “before” baseline of water quality, and providing manpower and boats in support of the actual placement of the trees on the river shoreline.

Also, late last fall, the collaborative group ACUTE was reactivated under the leadership of TLA, for the purpose of seeking solutions – both short term and long term – to the long-standing problem of the TCE plume migrating underground in our local aquifer. The May 7 report by this collaborative group of stakeholders, to the MDEQ, on its findings and preliminary conclusions, may be found on the TLA website. Go to www.3lakes.com, under Projects & Reports > Advocacy > TCE Plume ACUTE Seeking Solutions > May 7, 2014: Meeting in Lansing: DEQ Meeting Combined Package. This is a large pdf file, but well worth your effort and attention. The danger to our whole community from this migrating TCE plume can hardly be overstated.

Our current and paid-up membership numbers continue to float around 500 by the end of each year. We would ardently like to up that number to 550 or 600 in 2015. If you believe in the value of what TLA stands for, please share your thoughts with others who may be unaware of our purpose, or who don't realize how effective our collective voices can be, as together we tackle the issues that threaten our most valuable asset: clean water.

This spring, with the blessing of the TLA Board of Directors, our Executive Director embarked on several new initiatives. Let me tell you briefly about two of those: the Water Awareness Day and the Maury Creek Sub-Watershed Plan.

- 1) The annual Water Awareness Day was launched July 12, 2014, at the Depot Park in Alden. This family-friendly event is designed to use fun and food to educate the public about our waters.
- 2) A watershed plan provides the overall guidelines for effective stewardship of that watershed, noting its strong points and its vulnerabilities. The current plan for the entire Elk River Chain of Lakes is nearing time for review and renewal. By developing a sub-watershed plan for one of our waterways, we provide specific stewardship guidelines for our local area, and assist in developing a better, more granular plan for the entire region.

These are only a few of the many areas of environmental stewardship that TLA has been active in during this past year, as we pursue our mission, *to provide leadership to preserve, protect, and improve the environmental quality of the Elk River Chain of Lakes Watershed for all generations with emphasis on Lake Bellaire, Clam Lake, Torch Lake and their tributaries.*

Let me close with my ongoing appeal to each of you: offer a few hours of your valuable time to help your organization to succeed in this worthwhile mission.

Thank you