



March 6, 2023

Subject: CLMN Spring Clarity letter

Dear Volunteer:

Thank you for your dedication and responsible stewardship of Wisconsin lakes. You support water quality monitoring on more than one thousand lakes statewide, check Wisconsin lakes for invasive species and keep your lake community healthy. Thank you so much! We hope you are doing well and staying healthy.

Remote Sensing Schedule and Data Sheets

The 2023 remote sensing schedule and clarity data sheets are enclosed. If you have forgotten your satellite path, you can contact me or find it on the DNR web site: <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/>

SWIMS Update

SWIMS is going through a user interface redesign. Jake and his team have been migrating the SWIMS interface from one platform to another. Their goal is to update SWIMS, create a standardized layout, and to allow users to do more in SWIMS. While the look and feel of this new interface can be different, the functionality and steps to enter data should be much the same. Jake Dickmann will keep us all updated on this exciting (?) news.

Lake Summary Reports

If you have clarity data that you haven't submitted yet, it is not too late!

Annual reports and historical water quality data for Wisconsin lakes can be found at the DNR CLMN web site. Take a few minutes to look over your report for 2022 and make sure the data printed there is accurate. If there are errors, let me know. If I entered your Secchi data, your lake summary report is enclosed with this letter. If you would like a printed copy of your annual report, let me know.

If you decide to retire from water clarity monitoring or if someone else is taking over, please let us know.

I think most of you know that the new protocol for CLMN chemistry lakes is to prioritize the lakes on the waiting list and when one is chosen, to provide funding for a 3- year period. I will contact the 2023 lakes that were on the waiting list and were chosen to see if the volunteer is still interested in collecting water chemistry and set up a time for training.

There were four lakes that started water chemistry monitoring in 2020 (Fisher Lake - Iron County; Butternut Lake - Price County; Broken Bow - Vilas County and Rock Lake - Vilas County). These lakes have enough data for an accurate assessment of water quality but there was extra money in the budget and it was decided that these four could do one more year of monitoring. If you are the chemistry volunteer on one of these lakes and do not wish to have an extra year of monitoring, please let me know.

The Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention

The 2022 Lakes and Rivers Convention is an in-person event scheduled for April 19-April 21, 2023. The Convention is at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Stevens Point, WI. Information on the Convention can be found at the Extension Lakes web site.

A CLMN Refresher class is scheduled at the Convention. It is Wednesday, April 19 from 1:00 until 4:00 pm. There is no cost for this workshop. This is an opportunity to review monitoring protocols, talk about the database upgrade (SWIMS2) and have a brief discussion of dissolved oxygen meters – maintenance and calibration or pick up your chemistry supplies. If you wish to attend, give me a call at 715-365-8951 or email me or you can choose to attend this workshop as part of your Convention Registration if you will be attending.

We have scheduled one Refresher class at the DNR Service Center in Rhinelander in 2023. In addition to talking about CLMN protocols, Susan Knight, from Center for Limnology, Trout Lake Station, will be talking about her wild rice research. This Refresher class will be at the DNR office in Rhinelander (107 Sutliff Avenue, Rhinelander) from 1:00 until 2:30. Susan will be presenting first – you can come just for her presentation and some refreshments if you wish.

Dissolved Oxygen Meter

Some CLMN volunteers collect a dissolved oxygen profile at the deep hole using a Winkler titration kit. Others use a dissolved oxygen meter. There are meters available to the public at several different locations, for no charge. Check with the contact person listed below for availability.

A dissolved oxygen meter is available to the public at the following locations. Call ahead to reserve.

Forest County – Neal Klemme (on Lake Lucerne) at 715-478-2019

Iron County – Zach Wilson, Conservation Specialist - 715-561-2234. Meter is at the Mercer Library

Lincoln and Langlade County - Dave Seibel, DNR Fisheries Biologist in Antigo, 715-623-4190 ext 3112

Oneida County – Fred Knoch at 715-546-3391. Meter is kept at the Three Lakes Library

Oneida County – Stephanie Boismenu - 715-369-7835. Meter is at the Rhinelander Courthouse.

Oneida County – Derek Thorn - Lumberjack RC&D, Rhinelander – 715-490-3325

Vilas County – Rollie Alger at 715- 545-2711. Meter is at Phelps Library

Vilas County – Cathy Higley at 715-479-3787. Meter is at Vilas Co. Courthouse in Eagle River

Sandy Wickman 715-365-8951. Meter is at the DNR office in Rhinelander (107 Sutliff Avenue)

Winter Salt Watch For Streams

Road salt (sodium chloride) is everywhere during winter months. It keeps us safe on roads and sidewalks, but it can also pose a threat to fish and wildlife and human health.

Shannon Haydin, DNR Stormwater Section Manager, and Shawn Giblin, DNR Mississippi River Water Quality Specialist, were interviewed for a recently published Milwaukee Journal Sentinel news article discussing the growing concern about road salt washing into Wisconsin's waterways.

New data reveals how serious the problem is getting. Chloride levels are rising at all 43 river sites where DNR conducts long-term monitoring across the state — most seeing increases between 1% and 4% annually and some more than 10% annually.

Fifty-one of Wisconsin rivers and one lake are considered chronically impaired by chloride under Wisconsin's water quality standards, according to DNR data — most in the southeast region of the state. More than half of the water bodies on that list were added since 2016.

Read the entire [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel news article](#).

Contact the Izaak Walton League, request a free kit and see if road salt pollution is a problem in your local stream. <https://www.iwla.org/water/stream-monitoring/winter-salt-watch>

We thank you again for all your help. Please let me know if you need anything!

Sincerely,
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