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- 2015 MFA Annual Meeting - June 13th.
- 2015 - 2019 APM (Aquatic Plant Management) plan:
 - **Final draft for public review posted on MFA website.**
 - **MFA approval vote will occur at the Annual Meeting.**
- May 19, 2015 AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) herbicide treatment update.
- 2015 Clean Boats / Clean Waters public-access education program.
- Cranberry Flowage's inclusion on APM plan
- MFA Events:
 - APM, LLC - "Hand-pulling" of milfoil plants
 - ND&D, LLC - "D.A.S.H." (Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting) of milfoil plants
 - "Meet the Research Biologist" - Matt Berg. August 29th.
- WDNR's Healthy Lakes Initiative - Fish Sticks
- Smith's Bridge replacement project.
- Sanitary Transfer Station procedural changes
- Newsletter distribution policy
- Board of Directors election
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ANNUAL MEETING

The MFA's annual meeting will be held on Saturday, June 13TH at the Minong Town Hall (W7095 Nancy Lake Road). The MFA Board of Directors will host a Meet-N-Greet event starting at 8:30am. Pastries and coffee will be on hand and you can take a moment to update your MFA membership profile.

The meeting will begin promptly at 9:00 am. Agenda items will include:

- General MFA business
- The 2015 - 2019 Aquatic Plant Management plan overview by its author, Dave Blumer.
- MFA Events: Non-herbicide milfoil removal contractor demonstrations on-the-lake:
 - APM, LLC - "Hand-pulling" of milfoil plants
 - ND&D - "D.A.S.H." (Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting) of milfoil plants
- Smith bridge replacement project begins mid-July.
- MFA Event: "Meet the Research Biologist" - August 29th @ the Totogatic Campground Pavilion
- DNR "Fish-Sticks" - habitat improvement project
- Board of Directors elections (only members who are current on their \$25/yr. dues can vote).
- Post-meeting: general lake management questions & discussions.

5-YEAR APM (Aquatic Plant Management) PLAN

The "Proposed Draft" of our 2015 - 2019 APM plan can be found on the MFA's website: www.MinongFlowage.org via the tabs "Lake Management", then "Reports", then "**2015-2019 Aquatic Plant Management Plan**". The 5-year APM Plan lays out all of the factors to be considered when making our annual "action-plan". **IT IS NOT "THE" ACTION PLAN.** However, this plan is the basis for our annual action plans. The MFA must approve the plan, so we will be voting on its approval at the Annual Meeting.

In summary we plan to:

1. Increase stakeholder education & involvement in our lake planning activities.
2. Protect and enhance the native aquatic plants.
3. Minimize the encroachment of AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species), which threaten native plants, wildlife and general lake health.

MAY 19TH HERBICIDE TREATMENT OF EMERGING EURASION-WATER-MILFOIL BEDS

The MFA'S permit request to treat several emerging EWM beds with herbicide was approved and the treatments took place on May 19th. The treatment locations can be view on the MFA website (www.MinongFlowage.org) via the tabs "Lake Management", then "Reports", then "**2015-05-19 Herbicide Treatment Map**". The goal for this set of treatment efforts is to address the EWM growth identified in the 2015 spring plant survey and curtail expansion of the beds during the coming season.

CLEAN BOATS / CLEAN WATERS PROGRAM: 2015

Boating season is here on the Minong Flowage and with it comes the Clean Boats/Clean Waters program to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. This year, we are again partnering with the local Boy Scouts of America troop for monitoring the DNR landing (on East Flowage Rd) while the Minong Town Lakes Committee sponsors the monitoring of the Totogatic campground landing.

Additional volunteer monitors are needed when the Scouts can't provide coverage. We will provide volunteers with all the needed materials and will bring folks up to speed on how to monitor. We will also enter all of the information gathered into the required reports. Schedule options include: Friday afternoon/evenings, Saturdays and Sundays. Typically shifts are 2 hour or 4 hour segments.

Monitors can do this as non-paid volunteers to help with our portion of the DNR grant, **or be paid \$10/hr.!** Please contact Jean Johnson at 715/829-4530 or 715/466-2536 or: mombo3646@gmail.com Thanks for your interest and help with the Minong Flowage! More CB/CW info at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/cbcw/rmation>

CRANBERRY FLOWAGE ASPECT OF THE 5-YEAR AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Cranberry Lake is roughly 1 mile directly north of the Minong Flowage. The Cranberry Flowage is the section of water from Cranberry Lake's outlet to the County Road "T" bridge near Pogo's restaurant. The APM plan refers to the channel from County Road "T" southward as "the Cranberry Channel", which leads into the main body of the Minong Flowage. Cranberry Lake has its own APM plan and EWM control efforts. The Cranberry Flowage does not have a formal AIS control plan, but it has significant amounts of EWM, which causes the typical problems for that water body. Therefore, the Cranberry Flowage is a significant source of EWM shoots moving into the Minong Flowage.

The MFA and the DNR agree that our APM plan should address these factors by monitoring EWM and native plant activity in the Cranberry Flowage and maintain communications between interested parties in this relationship. Additional details can be found in the current APM plan draft.

MFA EVENTS THIS SUMMER

Aquatic Plant Mgt. (APM, LLC) - "Hand-pulling" of milfoil plants. The MFA has contracted with this firm to spend 2 days on our lake and demonstrate their process for EWM removal whereby snorkeling divers pull the plants out by their roots and transport them off the lake. Tentative dates (likely to be in July) and locations are not yet determined. Lakeside property owners and public officials with email addresses on file will be notified shortly prior to the dates, which can vary greatly due to weather and scheduling peculiarities. We will be seeking a few volunteers to assist in the transportation and disposal of the plants.

Naturally DASH & Dredge (ND&D, LLC) - "D.A.S.H." (Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting) of milfoil plants. The MFA will contract with this firm to spend 1.5 days on our lake and demonstrate their process for EWM removal whereby snorkeling divers pull the plants out by their roots, feed them into a suction hose that transports them onto a platform and transport them off the lake. The tentative dates are June 29 & 30. Locations are not yet determined. Lakeside property owners and public officials with email addresses on file will be notified shortly prior to the dates, which can vary greatly due to weather and scheduling peculiarities. We will be seeking a few volunteers to assist in the transportation and disposal of the plants.

"Meet the Research Biologist" - August 29th at the Totogatic Campground Pavilion. Matt Berg is the contractor who performs all of our statistical research regarding plant life on the lake. It is from this data that we make most of our decisions for nurturing the health of the lake. Matt will make a short presentation and moderate an informal discussion. Tentative starting time is 1:00pm.

WDNR's HEALTHY LAKES INITIATIVE - "FISH-STICKS"

Woody debris is important to the health of a lake. Especially it's wildlife. Unfortunately, we have way too much debris on the north end of the lake and not enough on the south end. Little can be done with the over-abundance on the north end, but the DNR's "Healthy Lakes" initiative offers a variety of options "mid and south-enders" can do. One such option is called "Fish Sticks", which is a simple, **but regulated** means of adding woody debris to our shorelines where logistics allow. They are constructed on the winter ice, and drop into place in the spring. The MFA has obtained a permit for the construction of pre-approved "Fish Stick" sites in the Minong Flowage. **Note: Simply cutting down a shoreline tree and letting it fall into the lake is ILLEGAL!**

The first "Fish Sticks" site as been installed and interested folks are encouraged to check it out. It is on the southern shore of the bay that precedes the sharp turn towards the dam. It is designated by a 9"x9" green/yellow sign that says, "**Fish Sticks" DNR Site**". Anyone interested in building additional "Fish Sticks" sites should contact Dan Maxwell: 612/817-8257 or MinongFlowage@gmail.com

Details at: www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Documents/resources/healthylakes/HealthyLakesPlan.pdf

SMITH'S BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Town of Wascott, Douglas County & the US Federal Government have combined forces to replace Smith's Bridge which crosses the inlet waters in the northeast section of the lake. Construction of the concrete structure should not begin before Monday, July 6, **2015**. The work is expected to take about 12 weeks with little disturbance to the waterway, but Smith's Bridge Road will be closed. It will be built in roughly the same location as the current bridge. Final costs will be shared as follows: 80% paid by the Federal Government, 10% paid by Douglas County and 10% paid by the Town of Wascott.

Plans can be viewed at: www.TownOfWascott.org

SANITARY TRANSFER STATION'S NEW PROCEDURES

The Minong Sanitary Transfer station has instituted a new policy that requires **Proof of Minong property ownership** prior to disposing of refuse and recyclables at the site 1 mile south of Minong.

Proof of Property Ownership can be **either**:

- **A personal I.D. card** (i.e. drivers license) which contains the mailing address listed as the Property Tax mailing address **AND** a copy of **a Property Tax bill** showing the identical address.
- **A Minong Transfer Station card**, which can be obtained at the Minong Town Hall (Monday - Friday / 8:00am to 3:00pm). Call 715/466-5916 for details.

The Wascott Sanitary Transfer station has had such a process in place for a while, but enforcement had become lax. Enforcement procedures will be more strictly enforced now. Call 715/466-4252 for details.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION POLICY

The "Spring" Newsletter is the only newsletter sent to all known Minong Flowage property owners **regardless** of their membership status in our association. It announces the date of our annual meeting and offers the opportunity to participate in the care and management of our lake. Our preferred method of communication is email. We will continue to mail paper newsletters to members in good standing that don't want or don't use electronic mail for the time being. ***Please confirm your preferred email address to Dawn Pearce via MinongFlowage@gmail.com, or call Dawn: 218/428-8650.*** Dawn can also advise you as to your MFA membership dues status.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

WE NEED YOU... to join the MFA Board of Directors. Two or our "3rd-term'r" positions will expire this June. Thus we need two more volunteers to meet our 7-member minimum.

The MFA board of directors consists of 7 to 9 members in good standing. Individual functions of committee members are allocated among the members of the board, as their available time, interests and talents will allow. Meetings are held as needed, but typically 4 - 6 times a year at 9:00am on Saturday mornings in the Minong Town Hall. Board members are elected to a 2-year term and allowed a maximum of 3 terms.

Many non-board members remain quite active in the ongoing activities of the MFA. It is an excellent venue for meeting lake-neighbors, DNR & lake management officials and a variety of public representatives who enjoy our common bond. Please consider becoming a board member, or nominating someone you are inclined to support.

Board Activities Calendar:

- June 13th - MFA Annual Meeting. 9:00am at Minong Town Hall
- August 29th - "Meet the research biologist" Educational Event
- October 3rd - Board meeting. End-of-season review and 2016 planning.
- **2016**
- January 24th - AIS planning
- April 16th - MFA Annual Meeting planning
- June 11th - MFA Annual Meeting

CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Dan Maxwell - 612/817-8257
Secretary: Bill Peck - 651/226-0877
CB/CW: Jean Johnson - 715/466-2536
Website: Bob Budden - 715/614-2544

Treasurer: Dave Moline - 612/859-0492
Membership: Dawn Pearce - 218/428-8650
CB/CW: Wayne Johnson - 715/466-2098

YOU CAN REGISTER FOR COUNTY EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION PROGRAMS AT:

Douglas County's emergency notification program at: www.DouglasCountyWi.org/NotifyMe

Washburn County's emergency notification program at: <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/BF70D44BC678>

PLEASE REPORT SUSPICIOUS AND ILLEGAL ACTIVITY DIRECTLY TO THE DNR PROMPTLY!

DNR Tip Line: 800/847-9367

Douglas County Warden - Lance Burns: 715/296-8876

Washburn County Warden - Dave Swanson: 715/466-5358

Douglas County Sherriff - 715/395-1371

Washburn County Sherriff - 715/468-4700

www.MinongFlowage.org / MinongFlowage@Gmail.com