



MINONG FLOWAGE ASSOCIATION

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DATE: October 3, 2015
TO: Minong Flowage Association's Board of Directors and Members
CC: Board meeting file - Dan Maxwell
SUBJECT: MFA's Fall Board Meeting Minutes

Date: October 3, 2015
Time: 9:00am
Location: Peck's
Meeting Type: MFA Board Meeting

Attending Board Members:

Budden, Bob / Brudza, Peggy / Johnson, Wayne / Maxwell, Dan / Moline, Dave / Peck, Bill

Absent Board Members: Steve Johnson

Guests: Doris Youngquist, Dave Blumer

Call to Order: Dan

Drawdown Topics:

- Dan reported on the 2013/2014 drawdown survey results:
 - 142 responses received out of 440 lakeshore owners...32%, far better than hoped
 - 83% said they had no well problems
 - 72% said their shoreline has returned to pre-drawdown conditions
 - 68% had less than 5 trees die
 - 59% had "woody debris" issues on their shoreline
 - 1 person reported a significant personal injury incident from "woody debris" in the main body of the lake
 - 28% said the fishing was worse since the drawdown
 - 24% are against future winter drawdowns
 - Some comments seemed to be based on non-factual information ("EWM was not reduced" when it was 99% eliminated for the 1st year post-drawdown, etc.)

- Any future drawdown research will have to determine the effect/cost on power generation at the dam, among many other factors.
- Overview of DNR's Drawdown Case Study Workshop held on September 16th
 - Presented by Jim Kreitlow
 - Musser lake effectively controlled CLP for 3 years, so far
 - Lac Sault Dore (Soo) effectively controlled EWM for 5 years, so far
 - Winter drawdowns must begin in September to protect hibernating critters
 - Neither lake has had a appreciable loss of native ("good") plants
 - No appreciable "shoreline tree stress" was noted
 - Some "woody debris" issues were noted, but not to a major degree
 - When asked why the Minong Flowage hasn't seen the same degree of long-lasting success, Jim could only speculate that various environmental factors cause varying results. Dave Blumer noted that the defined threshold of "success", is very relevant to the reporting of "success".
 - The Chippewa Flowage's annual drawdown (and many other Wisconsin drawdowns) is primarily for "spring run-off control", although it does also assist in control of EWM. It is not clear how effective the EWM control is, but their lake association may have details...
 - Jon Johnson noted that Renewable World Energy requested compensation for lost revenue during the 2013 drawdown and the County basically denied their request. It is not clear how this relates to the \$100,000 they kicked-into the dam re-build costs.
 - Toshner will be issuing the power-point file "soon".

Aquatic Plant Management Plan (APM: 2015-2019):

- Review of APM plan's progress and next-steps
 - Dan is asking for a meeting with Pam Toshner of the DNR to discuss the plan, as she implied that changes are needed
 - Dave Blumer commented that Toshner may want certain parts of the plan taken out or changed
- Steve Johnson's & Doris Youngquist's recent EWM observations "from their docks" (south shore of serenity bay) were discussed. Although EWM is quite evident, and growing in areas is hasn't in the past, it's density rating is currently at a "1" or "2", when a "3" is the threshold of being considered "actionable".
- Dave Blumer reported that the St. Croix Flowage has been fighting for approval of a herbicide treatment on their EWM for a long time. It's position as the headwaters for the St. Croix River (a federally protected waterway), the presence of wild rice, and the specific location of the EWM makes it a complicated issue. They have DNR approval for a fall herbicide treatment that will occur soon. Although fall treatments are unusual, they are occasionally approved under specific circumstances. A drawdown is not a likely option for this body of water.
- Dave Blumer's summary of Matt Berg's 2015 plant surveys:
 - Dave handed out a map of the EWM in the Flowage that Matt created from a 9/27/15 survey of the lake. It shows some 20+ acre EWM beds in Serenity Bay, a 16+ acre bed near the DNR landing, and several beds of less than 2 acres.

- One of the areas treated with herbicides last May have significant re-growth (bed #3) while others do not (beds 4, 5, 6, & 7). Bed #1 was a specific target for APM's hand-pulling method, and it has significant re-growth, too. APM also worked in the channel leading to the DNR public landing and that also has significant EWM growth.
- No beds were found with a density above "1 to 2"
- Native plants have not come back and some cases may never come back
- EWM is now growing, but only in water 5 feet deep or less
- The plan's target treatment is for EWM beds outside of Serenity Bay of 20 acres or more and a density greater than 2...as of now, nothing is at that level, **therefore it is very unlikely that we will pursue herbicide treatments in 2016 because no beds meet the "density = 3" threshold.**
- Matt couldn't get to the East Basin (wild rice zone) due to the smith's bridge construction
- Matt estimated that some beds would likely get to a density of 2-3 by fall, 2016
- Plan thresholds must be exceeded before permits can be applied for
- Chemical/herbicide treatment: The DNR no longer believes that the science supports this sort of treatment since it is not effective for "multiple years of relief"
- The tribes are steadfast in their opposition to herbicides on lakes that produce wild rice, but ultimately it is the DNR that decides, so we cannot be concerned with the tribes' opposition because they will oppose it no matter what is proven.
- Matt believes few native plants are recovering in the lake, though several board members report seeing modest amounts in front of their docks. His survey was focused on EWM presence, not native plant recovery.
- The DASH process should be removed from possible treatments because of the cost and limited effectiveness. APM's hand-pulling method could be useful in isolated instances.
- Current grant funding should be wrapped up as everything is done
- Future AIS control grants: The DNR will probably not support herbicides based programs because they don't see long-term effectiveness from such treatments.
- Summary: We may need a late 2016 request to treat the DNR landing approach area. We need to submit the AIS education grant by about 12/10/2015 and any AIS control grants by about 2/1/2016. The CBCW grant should be covered in the AIS education grant application.
- For Dave Blumer to assist in writing up the grants it will cost around \$750-\$1500.

Dan made a motion to allocate a cap \$5000 for Dave Blumer's consulting services at a \$48/hour rate between now and 12/31/2016 so he can help write the grants, consult on specific issues, etc.

Dave Moline seconded, and the motion was approved by a voice vote.

Grants Status:

- ACEI-072-10 (AIS - Aquatic Invasives Control): Is complete
- AEPP-431-14 (Aquatic Invasives Education)

- Bathymetric data consolidation is complete and on file for future use in lake planning activities
 - Hand pulling and DASH removal was tried at the end of June with modest results. Cost per acre is beyond what can be afforded. MFA expense will be refunded via the grant
 - Steve Johnson is preparing the final paperwork for completing the grant and getting reimbursed.
- CBCW-158-15 (MFA's Clean Boats / Clean Waters grant for DNR boat landing)
 - Wayne reported that the 2015 season at the DNR landing resulted in 284 hours charged by the Boy Scouts at a cost of \$2850. He will apply for \$3000 for 2016, however that may be doubled if the Minong Lake Association doesn't cover the park landing next year (which is yet to be determined).
- LPT-499-15 (Fish-Sticks):
 - Dan reported getting a \$303 reimbursement for his fish sticks project, though he's not sure why, yet...

Secretary's Report:

- Dan made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 13th Annual Meeting.
- Wayne seconded
- Vote voice approved

Treasurer's Report:

- Dave Moline handed out the finance reports update and explained the income and expenses
- Long term finance discussions
 - We have requested a 2016 donation from the Washburn County Forestry dept. for EWM control efforts. They are also considering adding a "standard amount" into their annual budget so that we have firmer expectations on funds.
 - Dues
 - Boat launch fees
 - Donations
 - _____?

Bill made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, and Bob seconded. It was approved by a voice vote.

MFA Membership Report:

- Peggy gave the following update:
- 148 current MFA members
 - 121 have e-mail addresses
 - There are 86 former members
 - 74 dues reminders were sent out...21 responded

MFA Website Report:

Bob discussed the use of Paypal for members/donators can pay online.

Bob made a motion to allocate up to \$150 for CSS to enable Paypal transactions. Bill seconded, and it was approved by a voice vote.

Newsletter Report:

Dan reports that the next newsletter will be coming out in about 2 weeks.

Minong Flowage Stakeholders committee:

Dan reports that little has happened with the Stakeholders, but a fall or winter meeting is likely.

On-lake activities:

- Smith's Bridge replacement - Supposedly to be done by mid-Oct.
- Citizen Lake Monitoring: Ron Brown did collect lake data again this summer.
- Ice fishing contests and similar events promoted via MFA database is still under consideration
- Buoy placement and management - Question on fixing damaged buoys, Bob will investigate
- On-lake hazard markers - It is assumed that the MFA cannot mark hazards due to liability concerns, but more research is required
- VRBO's (Vacation Rental By Owner) - Some lakes have issues with loud renters, but so far no major issues reported on the Flowage
- MFA merchandise status - All merchandise was dispersed at the Annual Meeting.
- Shoreline Regulation legislation - Discussed...right now nothing is affecting the MFA
- Common Reed Grass, an AIS malady in some areas, is not an issue for us. It thrives in muddy, mucky soils.
- Full lake fish survey is set for this spring and summer, per Craig Roberts - DNR

Regional Associations:

- Minong Town Lakes Committee activities were discussed.
- Cranberry Lake assimilation issues were discussed. No direct action is planned at this time.

MFA Board Membership:

Steve Johnson remains as the interim 7th member. Recruitment for other board members is ongoing.

MFA Board meeting tentative calendar:

- ***** 2015 *****
- October 3, 2015 - End-of-Season review and 2016 planning
- ***** 2016 *****
- January 24, 2016 - AIS planning
- April 16, 2016 - MFA Annual Meeting planning
- June 11, 2016 - MFA Annual Meeting
- August 27, 2016 - AIS Education Event (at a venue "on the lake", t.b.d.)
- October 8, 2016 - Season Review & look towards 2017 (changed from Oct. 1st)

New Business:

- Directors & Officers insurance: research t.b.d.
- The EWM signs Dan Maxwell inherited will be installed at landings next spring
- Crime-watch websites ?? Questions if the counties even have them?

Adjournment:

Peggy made a motion to adjourn and Bob seconded...approved on a voice vote and the meeting was (finally) over!