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1) GOVERNOR'S FISHING OPENER ON THE MINONG FLOWAGE - MAY 7, 2016.

Yes, this year's event is being held on the Minong Flowage so you can expect a lot more on-the-lake activity than a typical fishing opener. The **VIP Agenda** will feature activities at Heartwood resort and other regional venues.

The **Public Agenda** is:

Friday, May 6th: 10:00am to 4:00pm. The event kicks-off with the "Wisconsin Opener Fishing & Outdoor Expo", which will be held at Heartwood resort. It will include fishing and outdoors vendors, casting clinics, educational displays, equipment demonstrations, etc.

Saturday, May 7th: Saturday morning will focus on fishing for the VIP's. Note that this is a tourism event, so an assortment of media folks will be in the area. Public boat-landings are likely to be busier than normal. A "shore lunch" will be held at Pogo's. It is likely to include live music. Heartwood resort will offer "kid friendly" activities from 10:00am to 1:00pm. At this point, the only roll the MFA has been asked to fulfill is to manage a team of volunteer pontoon escorts to transport/tour-guide dignitaries and media folks around the lake on Saturday afternoon. More information can be found at: [Facebook.com/WIFISHINGOPENER](https://www.facebook.com/WIFISHINGOPENER)

2) SPRING BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The MFA's Spring B-o-D meeting will be held from **9:00 ~ 11:00am on Saturday, April 16TH** at the Minong Town Hall (W7095 Nancy Lake Road). All property owners from Cranberry Lake, the Cranberry Flowage and the Minong Flowage are welcome to attend. We will also be inviting various "stakeholders" (i.e. county officials, DNR officials, tribal representatives, etc.) to this meeting so that they can keep abreast of our plans and offer their insights.

3) 2016 MFA ANNUAL MEETING

The MFA's annual meeting will be held on **Saturday, June 11TH** 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 2016 - 2020 Aquatic Plant Management plan, long-term lake-health management efforts (including discussions on potential winter drawdowns), the DNR's "Healthy Lakes Initiative" (including Fish-Sticks) and Board of Directors elections (note that only members who are current on their \$25/yr. membership dues can vote). Guest speaker(s) will review AIS control plans, and remain after the meeting for questions and general lake management discussions.

4) MFA MEMBERSHIP

MFA membership dues are \$25/year, or \$100 for 5 years (A 20% savings... "WOW, what a discount!!!"). Peggy Bruzda can advise you as to your MFA membership dues status.

So... if the Spring Newsletter is "free", why contribute cash for dues?

1. The Spring Newsletter is not our only communication to our membership. **We send out 1 or 2 more each year** offering additional insights regarding lake-relevant insights and explanations.
2. Our email database is now "nimble enough" to quickly issue high priority information within a few days of our learning such information. Many of you folks learned about the Governor's Fishing Opener being on our lake via item #1, above. **MFA members with email addresses learned about it on February 15th**. If we hear about a surge of break-ins in our area, MFA members will be notified promptly, etc.
3. Over the last 10 years, **our lake has been the beneficiary of \$300,000+ of DNR grants**. These grants pay for a variety of consultants, contractors, materials, researchers, etc. who enable the MFA board, and the DNR, to make intelligent decision regarding lake-management "best practices". **Many regional lakes are routinely denied any funding**. One factor contributing to these denials is a "lack of visible support" from their property owners. The MFA's strong board support, and it's membership support, foster strong support from the DNR and a broad range of "Minong Flowage Stakeholders", that help to make vital grant funds available to our lake. **Rest assured that each MFA member's \$25 annual dues are extraordinarily valuable! It is difficult to emphasize this fact strongly enough.**
4. Most folks realize, and appreciate, that the MFA Board of Directors invests a great deal of their "free time" on behalf of all property owners. We **are not** paid for our efforts. These efforts enhance enjoyment of the lake and owner's property value. While MFA members may not be able to invest such time and effort themselves, they know that their dues help to make all of the behind-the-scenes-stuff happen. **Your financial & moral support is needed, important and genuinely appreciated.**

5) BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS TO FOLLOW ANNUAL MEETING ON JUNE 11TH

WE NEED YOU... to join the MFA Board of Directors. One of our "3rd-term" positions expires in June. We need 1 more member to meet our 7-member minimum. Two more will achieve our 9-member maximum.

The MFA board of directors consists of 7 to 9 MFA 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 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:

- April 16th - Board meeting. Annual Meeting & summer events planning. 9:00am at Minong Town Hall
- June 11th - MFA Annual Meeting. 9:00am at Minong Town Hall
- October 1st - Board meeting. End-of-season review and 2017 planning (date subject to change).
- January 28th - Board meeting. 2017 spring & summer planning.

6) DNR's 2016 Fish Population Study

This spring, the DNR launched an extensive effort to survey the fish population in the Minong Flowage. It will compare current populations of assorted species to the last such study, which was performed in 2005. The 2005 study can be found on our website: www.MinongFlowage.org The 2016 report will be issued during the winter of 2016/2017 and will likely have a great deal of influence on our lake management activities.

7) 2016-2020 AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT (APM) PLAN

The Approved Draft of our 2016 - 2020 Aquatic Plant Management plan can be found on the MFA's website: www.MinongFlowage.org, as "**2016-2020 Aquatic Plant Management Plan**". The document is extensive. It is far more detailed than most APM plans in Wisconsin! Our Lake is a unique body of water with unique challenges and opportunities. In particular, we have one of the largest wild rice beds in the state and our Eurasian Water Milfoil nemesis grows in

close proximity to the rice beds, current flow & boating channels. Thus, the traditional use of herbicides is tricky business, and expensive.

The 5-year APM Plan lays out all of the factors to be considered when making an action-plan. **IT IS NOT THE ACTION PLAN.** However, this plan is the basis for our action plans. In summary we plan to:

1. Increase stakeholder involvement in our lake planning activities.
2. Protect and enhance the native aquatic plants.
3. Minimize the encroachment of EWM, which threaten native plants, wildlife and general lake health.
4. Minimize the encroachment of Curly-leaf Pondweed and Purple Loosestrife, which threaten native plants, wildlife and general lake health.
5. Reduce the threat from new/undetected invasive species before they gain a foothold in our lake.

8) 2016 HERBICIDE TREATMENT PERMIT REQUESTED FOR "DNR BOAT-LANDING BAY"

The MFA has submitted a permit request to the DNR to treat the emerging EWM bed in the "DNR boat-landing bay" with herbicide this spring. The cost is projected to be less than \$9,000. If the permit request is approved, funding for the treatments will come from the MFA's treasury, but may eventually be offset by other revenue sources. The location can be viewed on the MFA website (www.MinongFlowage.org) as "**Proposed 2016 herbicide treatment site**". The goal for this treatment effort is to address the EWM growth identified in the 2015 plant survey, curtail the expansion of the bed during the coming season and constrain the possible transportation of EWM via boats & trailers departing from that boat-landing.

The DNR is unlikely to approve any individual property owner's request to use herbicide along their shoreline. Current options include:

- Personal hand-pulling
- Contracted hand-pulling (www.AquaticPlantManagement.com is one option)
- "Let it grow..."

9) 2016 CLEAN BOATS / CLEAN WATERS PROGRAM

Boating season is almost 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 Minong's Boy Scouts of America Troop #97 for monitoring the DNR landing (on East Flowage Rd) while the Minong Town Lakes Committee will manage the monitoring of the Totogatic campground landing.

The Scouts will start monitoring this spring. Additional volunteer monitors are needed when the Scouts can't provide coverage. We will provide all 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 done in 2 hour or 4 hour segments.

Monitors can do this as non-paid volunteers to help with our portion of the DNR grant, **or can be paid \$12/hr!** Please contact Wayne Johnson at 612/269-7873 or: WayneWascott@Yahoo.com Thanks for your interest and help with the Minong Flowage! More CB/CW info at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/cbcw/rmation>

10) BOAT LAUNCH FEE AT TOTOGATIC CAMPGROUND BOAT-LANDING

The boat launch fee at the Totogatic Campground boat-landing has entailed a bit of confusion. To clarify:

- There are 3 public boat-landing locations on the Minong Flowage: the Totogatic Campground landing, the DNR landing and the Smith's Bridge landing.
- The Campground landing requires the payment of a \$2 boat-launch fee (via a nearby metal box with envelopes), or a \$20 Season Pass. Note that this is a **boat-launch** fee, thus you **DO NOT** pay when **retrieving** your boat from the lake.
- The fee applies to lake property owners as well as the general public and campground clients.
- The funds collected are routed through the Washburn County Forestry department to the Minong Flowage Association with the designation for AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) control efforts. This is why there are no fee-boxes at the other two launch sites. Neither of those two sites is managed by Washburn County.
- It is a violation of Washburn County ordinances to not pay the fee. Non-payment can draw a citation.
- The Totogatic Campground boat-landing site has a "Clean Boats / Clean Waters" monitor on hand throughout the summer's peak usage periods. They are managed, and paid, by the Minong Town Lakes Committee. They are

NOT campground, nor county employees. They are NOT responsible for the management, or monitoring the boat-launch fee box. They may politely point it out on their own volition, but they are not required, nor expected, to do so. Their efforts are important and beneficial to the ongoing health of our lake. We expect that everyone treat them, and the campground staff, respectfully.

11) DNR's HEALTHY LAKES INITIATIVE

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** and detracts from the beauty and health of the shoreline!

The second "Fish Sticks" site as been installed right next to the first one. 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 during the winter of 2016/2017 should contact Dan Maxwell: 612/817-8257 or MinongFlowage@Gmail.com

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

12) TOTAGATIC VS. TOTOGATIC. WHAT IS THE PROPER SPELLING?

The in-bound river on the official state highway map, assorted state, county and local road signs and the entrance sign to the campground, spell it "Tota". Other DNR signage, the Washburn county website, and other road signs and places spell it "Totoo". The Washburn County Lakes & Rivers Assoc. recently confirmed the proper spelling for the river is Totagatic. We'll use that spelling (except when we spell it the other way...!)

13) WHEN WILL THE ICE "GO-OUT" OF THE LAKE?

Your guess is as good as ours, but statistics are fun. The Horseshoe Lake Improvement Assoc., near Turtle Lake, WI, has been tracking their lake since 1982. Their earliest ice-out was 3-19-2012. Their latest was the next year, 5-8-2013. The median day is April 14th. Their homepage has all the stats: www.Hlake.org

14) NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION POLICY

The Spring Newsletter is the only newsletter sent to all known Minong Flowage and Cranberry Flowage property owners **regardless** of their membership status in our association. It announces the date of our annual meeting and advises you about plans and activities regarding 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, email for the time being. *Please confirm your preferred email address to Peggy Bruzda* via MinongFlowage@Gmail.com, or call Peggy at 715/466-5815.

CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Dan Maxwell 612/817-8257

Treasurer: Dave Moline 612/859-0492

Secretary: Bill Peck 651/226-0877

Membership: Peggy Bruzda 715/466-5815

CB/CW: Wayne Johnson 612/269-7873

Website: Bob Budden 715/614-2544

Interim member: Steve Johnson 715/466-2536

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

www.MinongFlowage.org / <mailto:MinongFlowage@gmail.com>