



## MINONG FLOWAGE ASSOCIATION

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Dear Stakeholder of the Minong Flowage,

We are writing to you today to let you know that in a little over 1 month a meeting will be held to discuss a proposed *winter drawdown* of the Minong Flowage. After many years of careful monitoring of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) it is our conclusion that it is time to develop a plan of action to stop its further spread. In the past there has been successful control of EWM by chemical means. Then, in 2013 in order to repair the ailing dam a drawdown occurred which lasted 11 months. While there were a number of negative side effects (shoreline tree deaths, wells going dry) during this prolonged drawdown, EWM was killed. As predicted it is making a slow and steady return, having a noticeable impact in the Serenity Bay and East Bay areas of the lake. With the entire summer to grow and propagate, we predict that we will meet all DNR established criteria for a chemical treatment by the fall of this year. **We are choosing a drawdown instead of chemical treatment as a first line of defense and want your support.** We would propose the drawdown start in early October with a slow release of water from the lake expected to take 4-6 weeks to reach a drawdown depth of 4 to 5 feet below the normal water level established for operation of the dam. It is expected that the Minong Flowage will be refilled in the spring and back to normal operating level shortly after ice out. It is expected that this will avoid nearly all of the negative side effects experienced during the prolonged drawdown of 2013-14.

The stakeholder meeting will take place on Saturday August 18<sup>th</sup> from 9-11am at the Jack Link's Aquatic and Activity Center, 714 West Hokah Street in Minong (2 blocks west of US 53 on Hwy 77.)

For more information go to the Minong Flowage Association (MFA) website at [www.minongflowage.org](http://www.minongflowage.org). We hope to see you on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support of the Minong Flowage.

The Board of the Minong Flowage Association