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1) 1-foot Drawdown Project.

The Washburn County Hwy Department's (WCHD) plan to perform a 1-foot lake-level drawdown last fall was postponed to 2019 due to heavy rainfalls and cold weather. This drawdown's specific purpose is to enable the assessment, and repair work, on a portion of the dam that was not replaced at the time the new dam was constructed.

While this 1-foot drawdown **will occur** in 2019, the dates will not be set until lake conditions are suitable. It will likely occur in June so as to not disrupt fish spawning/hatching activity. It's duration is likely to be 1 to 2 weeks. Coordinating this drawdown with the potential 2019/2020 winter-drawdown is unlikely because the winter drawdown's plan will not be confirmed until late summer (see item #2, below).

The WCHD will coordinate the schedule for this event with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and The Minong Flowage Association's (MFA) board of directors. Once the schedule is set, the WCHD will mail announcement letters to 600 property owners (Minong Flowage, Cranberry Flowage & Cranberry Lake), post an announcement in the Spooner newspaper and on their website. In addition, the MFA will issue a "Constant Contact" email broadcast announcement to all MFA members **and non-member "stakeholders"** that we have in our "stakeholder" email database. This database includes people with a "stake" in the ongoing issues of the Minong Flowage, but are not dues-paying MFA members such as: Washburn & Douglas county staff, DNR staff, Tribal Staff, **and non-MFA member property owners who have provided us with their email address.**

NOTE: The Minong Flowage Association serves and informs it's dues-paying members. Email broadcasts to non-member "stakeholders", such as the one noted above, are a rarity. We occasionally will extend this courtesy to non-members when the subject matter's importance obliges us to do so. We do not guarantee a consistent flow of such information to non-MFA members. Membership information can be found in item #7, below.

2) 5-foot Winter Drawdown Analysis Project (DAP).

The analysis of a possible 5-foot lake-level drawdown for the purpose of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) control continues. The DNR approved the winter drawdown permit request from the Washburn County Highway Department (WCHD) in January, following the December Public Hearing. Now that the permit has been approved, the MFA Board of Directors will use our 5-Year Aquatic Plant Management (APM) plan's parameters to assess the need for a possible winter-drawdown in the 2019/2020 winter season. If the EWM threshold is exceeded, the MFA will request that Washburn County proceed with a winter drawdown in conjunction with Renewable World Energies (RWE).

The APM plan calls for EWM control action when the combined acreage of EWM exceeds a specific threshold amount which is measured in late August. Judging from last year's amount of EWM, we expect the threshold to be exceeded in the 2019 season. If the August EWM survey finds the EWM acreage to be within acceptable levels, or other mitigating circumstances intervene, a drawdown will not occur in 2019/2020. Conditions will then be similarly monitored in the summer of 2020 for a possible winter drawdown in 2020/2021.

The final decision regarding whether a winter drawdown will occur resides with Washburn County, who owns the dam and leases it to RWE. RWE would then be directed to implement the drawdown and manage the spring re-fill process. The MFA is using the 5-year Aquatic Plant Management plan, as approved by the DNR, to facilitate lake management actions between the DNR, Washburn County and RWE such as a 5-foot winter drawdown.

NOTE: The MFA Board of Directors wants it to be clearly known that a winter drawdown is possible, but not certain, for the 2019/2020 winter season. Shoreline property owners should contemplate their fall-shutdown procedures accordingly.

3) MFA Annual Meeting and BBQ

The MFA's **Annual Meeting** will be held on Saturday, June 8th at the Swift Nature Camp (W7471 Ernie Swift Road).

The MFA Board of Directors will host a **Meet-N-Greet** starting at 8:30am. Pastries and coffee will be on hand. You are encouraged to update your MFA membership profile and dues status as you check-in.

The meeting will begin promptly at 9:00 am. The primary topic will be the Drawdown Analysis Project (DAP). Board of Director elections will also take place.

Following the meeting, the Board of Directors will host the **Annual BBQ**. This event will run from about 11:00am to 1:00pm at Swift Nature Camp.

4) MFA Website upgrades: MinongFlowage.org.

Over the past year, we have invested time and money on improvements to our website.

- Information on major events, such as pending drawdown schedules, will be posted here.
- Volunteers can post their hours on the site, tracking these hours greatly aids us in recouping our grant fund dollars.
- MFA membership dues can be paid via PayPal. Your dues "amount due", is not available through the website. Peggy Bruzda can advise you of your status. Send your information request to: MinongFlowage@Gmail.com

5) Clean Boats / Clean Waters.

The Clean Boats/Clean Waters program is a critical factor in our AIS battle. Again, this year, we are partnering with the Boy Scouts of America's Troop #97 to monitor the "DNR boat landing" (on East Flowage Road). The Minong Town Lakes Committee will manage the monitoring of the Totagatic Campground boat landing.

6) Lake-wide briefs

The NW Wisconsin Lakes Conference will be held June 21st in Hayward. You can register online at: StCroixRiverAssociation.org/events

7) MFA Membership

Please consider joining the MFA, or renewing your membership if you have not done so for this year. Our continued strength is in the size of our organization. Your dues assist in the annual costs of the lake management activities, newsletters, maintaining our website and our email system that is not covered through grants. Membership keeps you up to date on important activities affecting the lake. The Association also advocates through our lake management plan, ways to improve and maintain the lake's ecosystem, water quality and fishery management.

Membership is only \$25 per year, or \$100 for 5 years. You can renew online via our website using PayPal, or send a check to the Minong Flowage Association, P.O. Box 167, Minong, WI 54859.

Contact Peggy Bruzda for your current dues status. (715/466-5815) MinongFlowage@Gmail.com

8) MFA's Board of Directors... Come Join Us.

We need 1, 2 or 3 MFA members to join the MFA Board of Directors.

The MFA Board of Directors consists of 7 to 9 MFA members in good standing. Due to term transitions, we need one new board member to be elected at the June 8th Annual Meeting. We can add as many as 3 new members to achieve a full compliment of 9 board members.

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 occur 4 times per year. Teleconferencing into the meeting is a new, and popular option for all of us especially our "snow birds". Board members are elected to a 2-year term and are allowed a maximum of 3 terms. Note that these are not paid positions.

Many non-board members remain active in the ongoing activities of the MFA. It is an excellent venue for meeting lake-neighbors, DNR and 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.

9) MFA calendar

- June, 2019
 - 1-foot pool elevation drawdown. Specific dates are yet to be established.
 - See item #1 above, for details.
- June 8, 2019
 - MFA's Annual Meeting at Swift Nature Camp. 9:00 ~ 11:00am.
 - MFA's Annual BBQ. Immediately following the Annual Meeting.

- Late August, 2019
 - EWM plant survey to be performed by Matt Berg of Endangered Resource Services to facilitate final winter drawdown decision.
 - Go/no-go decision on winter draw-down for 2019/2020 season.
- September 9th through October 31st
 - Potential pool elevation drawdown period.
- October 5, 2019
 - Fall Board of Directors meeting.
 - 9:00 ~ 11:00am
- January 25, 2020
 - Winter Board of Directors meeting.
- April 11, 2020
 - Spring Board of Directors meeting.
- April/May, 2020
 - Lake level's normal pool-elevation re-established, if required.
- June 13, 2020
 - MFA Annual Meeting.
 - MFA BBQ.

10) Newsletter Distribution Policy

The **Spring** Newsletter is the only newsletter sent to all known Minong Flowage and Cranberry Flowage Stakeholders **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. All other Newsletters, and general correspondences, are only distributed to MFA members.

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: Peggy Bruzda	715/466-5815
Membership: Peggy Bruzda	715/466-5815	CB/CW: Wayne Johnson	612/269-7873
Website: Robert Budden	715/614-2544	Drawdown Analysis: Dave Perrin	651/785-4698
Member at-large: Joe McGrath	715/466-2370	Member at-large: Rockne Johnson	218/728-3689

PLEASE REPORT SUSPICIOUS AND ILLEGAL ACTIVITY DIRECTLY TO LAW ENFORCEMENT PROMPTLY!

DNR Tip Line: 800/847-9367
 Minong Town Constable: Erik Gulbrandsen: 715/466-2519

Minong Flowage Association
Box 167 / Minong, WI 54859

MinongFlowage.org / minongflowage@gmail.com