



MINONG FLOWAGE ASSOCIATION

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SUBJECT: MFA's 2018 Winter Board Meeting - Minutes

Rev. A

Date: February 10, 2018

Time: 9:00am to ~ 11:00am:

Location: Dan Maxwell's cabin: W7626 Wallin Drive / Minong, WI

Attendees, or Teleconferenced:

- Dan Maxwell, Dave Perrin, Joe McGrath, Peggy Bruzda, Robert Budden, Rockne Johnson, Steve Johnson, & Wayne Johnson.
- Absent: Dave Blumer, Ralph Gilmore
- Prior to today's meeting (and at the last meeting in the Town Hall), the teleconference sound system worked perfectly, including several test-callers. When Dave, Joe and Steve called in for the actual meeting they could hear us, but we could not hear them via the table-top speaker (this stuff drives Dan nuts...). Dan used a head-set to communicate comments from Dave, Joe & Steve.

President's & Secretary's Report: Dan Maxwell

- General update
 - Dan's personal and professional commitments since he went back to full-time employment in January of 2017 has precluded his ability to "stay on top" of MFA issues. This time-conflict is expected/hoped to decrease throughout the coming months, but not in the next few weeks. While this is just somewhat of an annoyance for most MFA activities, it will be a major issue in the monitoring and management of EWM issues in the coming season due to the sheer complexity and ramifications of our management efforts.
- Newsletter
 - Our last Newsletter was issued in May of 2017 and thus we are way overdue in updating our MFA constituents. Dan has committed to issuing a rough draft to the Board no later than next Sunday, February 18th.
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- Membership survey
 - Our current grant requires the issuance of a member survey. Dan has committed to issuing a rough draft to the Board no later than next Sunday, February 18th.
 - The survey is not likely to be issued until the DNR definitively approves, or denies, our herbicide permit request.
 - Survey topic suggestions include:
 - EWM control as it relates to herbicides and drawdowns.
 - Website features, benefits and usage.
 - Shoreline preservation.
 - Hazard and speed-control buoys.
 - Membership growth insights
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- 2016 – 2017 grant status
 - One of Dan's core commitments to the MFA is to assemble and submit the final documents for this grant.
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- Board member planning summary
 - 3rd term Board memberships beginning of June 2018: Dan, Robert & Wayne
 - 3rd term Board membership beginning June of 2019: Peggy
 - 2nd term Board membership beginning June of 2018: Dave, Joe & Rockne
 - 1st term Board membership beginning June of 2018: Ralph Gilmore
 - Therefore, presuming that Ralph wishes to join the Board, and is voted in, we will begin the 2018/2019 term with eight members, which is one more than the minimum requirement of seven.
 - Dan hopes that the looming issue of EWM expansion will draw additional candidates onto the board. The maximum number is nine, so we would have room for one more member.

- Calendar for 2018
 - April 14: Board Meeting.
 - **The issue of a spring herbicide treatment and/or drawdown evaluations may require an additional teleconference meeting whose sole focus will be on this subject.**
 - June 9: Annual Meeting & AIS event.
 - October 13: Board Meeting (Stakeholders to be invited).
- Minong Flowage Stakeholders status report
 - Dave Blumer’s preliminary drawdown research has included discussions with Washburn County, the DNR, and the power company.
 - Additional Stakeholders input will be addressed as research continues to unfold.
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- Buoy’s update
 - A couple of MFA members who attended the 2017 Annual meeting indicated that they would do some preliminary research on upgrading some “No Wake” buoy’s in specific locations. We have not heard of any progress on this effort. The spring-thaw may bring their efforts back to life.
- Zebra mussels, as they relate to the Minong Flowage, appear to be unlikely threat due to the lake’s low calcium levels. We expect updated information from the DNR as the 2018 season unfolds. Especially if the threat level increases.

Treasurer’s Report: Peggy Bruzda

- Modest activity through the winter.
- Current balance is \$32,791.91
- Peggy will confirm the amount and date of the last Washburn County/Forestry check for Steve.
- Peggy will email the report file to all Board members.
- The motion to approve the report was seconded and approved.

MFA Membership Report: Peggy Bruzda

- Modest activity through the winter.
- Current membership stands at 173 members.

MFA Website Report: Robert Budden

- The website is cumbersome to use via small devices (i.e.: cell phones). Robert will contact CCS to see how this could be improved, and at what cost. **The actual quote will require board approval**, but Robert was given verbal approval that the Board would likely allow up to \$1,000 to aid his discussions with CCS.
- Bob proposed that we create a unique “member ID number” for each MFA member. Such a number could allow some information to be anonymous and yet allow MFA members to “look-up” their data, such as amount of dues owed. He will pursue the idea and present options for discussion at our next Board meeting.
- Peggy Bruzda noted that the website contains some outdated Board member phone numbers. Board members are expected to visit the website to confirm that their information is correct and advise Robert Budden of any needed changes.

Clean Boats / Clean Waters: Wayne Johnson

- Financial transactions for 2017 season are complete. We received \$3,600 and paid it out to the Boy Scouts.
- The DNR has approved the same amount for 2018 and the Boy Scout Troop will monitor the DNR launch site again. They will begin on the Saturday of the fishing opener, May 5th.
- It was confirmed that the Scouts strictly act as advisors, they are not enforcement of any kind.
- Wayne will contact the Minong Town Lakes Committee to confirm their plans for monitoring the campground launch area again for 2018.

Shoreline Erosion update: Steve Johnson

- Support from governing bodies has been tepid.
- Steve will continue to solicit support where possible.

New Business: Dan Maxwell

- AIS assessment for 2018
 - ***** SPECIAL NOTE TO ALL BOARD MEMBERS. DAN MAXWELL DID NOT ACCURATELY EXPLAIN THE AIS CONTROL GRANT REQUEST SITUATION AT THE BOARD MEETING. An explanation will be issued as a separate email. The bullet points that follow note the highlights of the discussion as it took place.

- EWM expectations for the coming season are that EWM growth will expand in last year's bed and continue to arise in additional areas.
- Drawdown Analysis Project: Dave Blumer is continuing his efforts on our behalf. This is to establish the general who-what-when-where-and why of the drawdown issue so that the MFA board can clarify it's position and responsibilities in the process.
- A lively discussion occurred regarding the broader topic, including a lack of specific direction and information from which Board members can form an opinion on the issue. Dan Maxwell's response was that we have Dave Blumer doing the preliminary research now, and we will need to develop an action plan from that effort. The timing for this discussion is tentatively set for the April 14th board meeting, unless factors arise that will need an earlier discussion. This discussion, if needed, would likely be a conference call that would include a representative from the DNR, Washburn County and all available Board members.
- Dave Perrin expressed a need for a concise "pros and cons" list to aid each board member in establishing their opinion.
- Dan Maxwell emphasized that he expects this issue to be extraordinarily complex, and therefore time consuming for the leader of the project. He cannot be that leader because he cannot dedicate the time & effort likely to be needed. Joe McGrath offered to be the primary contact on broad issues involved, but does not feel qualified to be the formal Project Manager.
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Adjournment:

- Motion made, seconded and passed.

Post-Meeting Events:

- General discussion continued around the general challenges AIS management.
- Per Steve Johnson's request, Dan Maxwell found the documentation of Dave Blumer's approval for drawdown research in the minutes of the 4-22-2017 Board meeting: "Jane Malischke approved redirecting grant funds for the Drawdown Analysis Project (DAP). Dave will begin preliminary research on the project pending Board approval of his expectations. Dan Maxwell will submit a summary email to the Board.
 - Phase 1: Identify Permit Requirements and timeline(s).
 - Phase 2: Gather relevant information and factors to be researched in detail.
 - Phase 3: Develop a specific plan for the issue.
- A Professional Services Agreement contract was approved by the Board, signed and submitted to LEAPS on November 18, 2017.