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**1) MFA’s 2020 Annual Meeting and BBQ**

Even with the uncertainties generated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the date of the MFA’s Annual Meeting is still planned for its traditional date, Saturday, **June 8<sup>th</sup>** at 9:00am. A Saturday in August would be the likely alternative date if the meeting needs to be postponed. The location and additional details will be announced via email when the Board of Directors (BOD) is confident that the meeting can be held within the health & safety standards set by Wisconsin government officials.

Topics for the meeting will likely include:

- The “Winter Drawdown Analysis Project” grant completion summary.
- The “Winter Drawdown Implementation Project” grant application for 2020 - 2022.
- MFA Bylaws revisions approval vote.
- The Membership Drive Initiative program.
- Voting for open Board of Directors seats.
- The Annual BBQ, which traditionally follows this meeting is in a wait-and-see status.

**2) Winter Drawdown Analysis Project’s ACEI grant for 2018 - 2020.**

This \$17,104 DNR grant concludes on June 30, 2020. Most of the work within the grant is complete and the BOD will be submitting the refund request to the DNR soon. The grant covers the costs to perform an analysis of a possible 5-foot lake-level winter drawdown for the purpose of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) control.

Following the DNR’s approval of the winter drawdown permit requested by the Washburn County Highway Department, the MFA’s BOD used the funds in this grant to develop the “Winter Drawdown Implementation Project” grant application discussed in item #3, below. Discussions regarding this grant application will be an important topic at the Summer Annual Meeting.

**NOTE: The MFA BOD's want it to be clearly known that a winter drawdown is not planned for the 2020/2021 winter season!**

### **3) Winter Drawdown Implementation Project's ACEI grant application for 2021-2023.**

A significant bottleneck to the whole winter drawdown issue is Renewable World Energies' (RWE) requirement for reimbursement for lost power production revenue during a winter drawdown event. The MFA worked with Washburn County, the DNR and RWE to develop a grant application which included funds to reimburse RWE for lost revenue. The DNR did not approve this application for 2020 - 2022 because it was superseded by other statewide grant applications.

It is likely that the MFA will submit a similar application for 2021 – 2023. Now that the winter drawdown permit has been approved by the DNR, 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 future. If the EWM threshold is exceeded, the MFA will request that Washburn County proceed with a winter drawdown in conjunction with the dam operator, Renewable World Energies (RWE).

The APM plan calls for EWM control action (i.e. winter drawdown, herbicide treatment, etc.) when the combined acreage of EWM exceeds a specific threshold amount which is measured in late August of each year. If the August EWM survey finds the EWM acreage to be within acceptable levels, or other mitigating circumstances intervene, a winter drawdown will not be requested. Conditions will then be similarly monitored in the following summer for a possible winter drawdown in the next winter season.

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.

### **4) Clean Boats / Clean Waters.**

The Clean Boats/Clean Waters program is a critical factor in our AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) 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. However, due to Covid-19 concerns, monitoring activity will not likely begin until June and follow the standards set by Wisconsin government officials.

### **5) 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 Karen Turnquist for your current dues' status. (612/708-7159) [MinongFlowage@Gmail.com](mailto:MinongFlowage@Gmail.com)

## **6) Lake level (“pool elevation”) management**

The day-to-day water level of the lake is called it’s “pool elevation”. The statutory pool elevation for the Minong Flowage as measured at the dam is 110.5 feet. The statutory range is plus or minus 6”. Short-term and long-term weather conditions can push the pool elevation outside its target boundaries occasionally.

Traditionally, the pool elevation has held remarkably consistent. Dramatic fluctuations in recent years has brought improved monitoring methods into the discussion. Washburn County has recently advised the MFA that Renewable World Energies will be installing an automated device to improve the timeliness of management efforts to maintain the 110.5-foot target.

Property owners with concerns about lake level fluctuations should direct their comments & questions to Dan Maxwell ([Dan.Maxwell@Comcast.com](mailto:Dan.Maxwell@Comcast.com) / 612-817-8257), who will promptly voice our concerns to the appropriate Washburn County manager to mitigate the number of calls flowing into Washburn County.

**FUN FACT:** The Totagatic River flows into the Namekagon River which joins the St. Croix river near the town of Danbury Wisconsin. 110.5 feet refers to the elevation difference between the Minong Flowage’s normal pool elevation and the normal river elevation of the junction of the Namekagon River and the St. Croix River.

## **7) Dam repair summary**

The dam repair activities of 2019 achieved the objectives of Washburn County. They report no plans to perform any maintenance activities in 2020 that would require adjustments to the normal pool elevation. These repairs were completed without any additional cost to Minong Flowage property owners. In addition, Washburn County funded a repairs and maintenance account to cover the costs of future maintenance expenditures.

Also note that Washburn County is in the process of updating their Emergency Action Plan and their Inspection Operation and Maintenance Plan.

## **8) Website notes**

Information on major events, board meeting minutes, etc. are posted at [MinongFlowage.org](http://MinongFlowage.org). Volunteers can post their hours on the site, tracking these hours greatly aids us in recouping our grant fund dollars.

## **9) MFA’s Board of Directors... Come Join Us.**

We need a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 4 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 at least 2 new board members to be elected at the next Annual Meeting. We can add as many as 4 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 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.

**10) MFA calendar**

- June 13, 2020
  - MFA Annual Meeting.
  - MFA BBQ (tentative)
- October 3, 2020
  - Fall Board of Directors meeting
- January 23, 2021
  - Winter Board of Directors meeting
- April 10, 2021
  - Spring Board of Directors meeting
- June 12, 2021
  - MFA’s Annual Meeting
  - MFA’s BBQ

**11) 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 Karen Turnquist*** via [MinongFlowage@Gmail.com](mailto:MinongFlowage@Gmail.com), or call Karen at 612/708-7159.

**CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President: Dan Maxwell	612/817-8257	Treasurer: Karen Turnquist	612/708-7159
Membership: Karen Turnquist	612/708-7159	CB/CW: Wayne Johnson	612/269-7873
Website: Robert Budden	715/614-2544	Member at-large: Dave Perrin	651/785-4698
Member at-large: Joe McGrath	715/466-2370	Member at-large: Rockne Johnson	218/728-3689
		Member at-large: Paul Gunderson	

**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](http://MinongFlowage.org) / [MinongFlowage@gmail.com](mailto:MinongFlowage@gmail.com)