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**1) MFA’s 2020 Annual Meeting**

Due to the uncertainties generated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the date of the MFA’s Annual Meeting was postponed from its traditional date in early June. It is now set for:

- **Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>**
- **Ernie Swift Nature Camp’s** meeting hall, W7471 Ernie Swift Rd (east side of the Minong Flowage). In keeping with the order signed by Governor Ever on July 30, 2020, face masks will be required to attend the meeting. Face masks will be available at the registration table.
- **8:30 – 9:00** Registration for current & new members. (The traditional coffee & donuts will not be served this year).
- **9:00 ~ 10:30** General Meeting (the post-meeting BBQ has been cancelled for this year)

Topics for the meeting will include:

- The “Winter Drawdown Analysis Project” 2018 – 2020 grant completion summary.
- The “Winter Drawdown Implementation Project” 2021 – 2023 grant application.
- MFA Bylaws revisions approval vote.
- The Membership Drive Initiative program.
- Voting for open Board of Directors seats.

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

This \$26,252.20 project was extended to December 31, 2020 to enable reimbursement for additional costs that totaled \$3,424.20. We anticipate the refund from the DNR this month. The grant covered 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 The DNR did not approve this application for 2020 - 2022 because it was superseded by other statewide grant applications.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 grant application for 2021 – 2023. Now that the winter drawdown permit has been approved by the DNR, the MFA BOD will use our 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 RWE in the 2021-2022 winter season.

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 APM 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.

**5) MFA Membership Drive Initiative**

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) Website notes**

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

## **7) MFA's Board of Directors... Come Join Us.**

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 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.

## **8) 2020 Key Issues Survey**

The Board of Directors issued a survey to 283 email addresses on June 29<sup>th</sup> to ascertain the top concerns of our members. The response ranked as follows:

1. Block Aquatic Invasive Species access to the Minong Flowage and mitigate their impact.
2. Mitigate the continued degradation of the shoreline and islands.
3. Unsafe/illegal boating practices (speeding, proximity to shorelines and docks, etc.)

## **9) Wake Boats**

The popularity of Wake Boats for "wake surfing" has steadily increased in recent years. Controversy about their activity has grown concurrently both locally and regionally. The MFA board got its first complaint a few seasons ago, and the number of complaints continues to grow yearly. Various comments and concerns regarding wake boats, including those by the Wisconsin Lakes Association of which the MFA is a member, include:

1. Wake Boats are legal for use on public waters and thus the board of directors has no authority to hinder their activity.
2. Wake Boats are subject to the same boating rules and regulations as all other watercraft. Per page 17 of the Wisconsin Boating Laws handbook, all vessels must maintain "slow, no wake speed" within 100 feet of shorelines, docks, rafts & piers. <https://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/le/le0301.pdf> As an example of visualizing a similar distance, the channel in front of the dam is approximately 230 feet wide, (according to Google Maps) so when you are in the middle of that channel, you are roughly 100 feet from both shorelines.
3. One of the many concerns for the Minong Flowage in particular is that the mean depth is only 9 feet, but Wake Boat activity disturbs the muck on the bottom down to 12 feet, or more. This decreases the clarity and cleanliness of the water. Decreased clarity retards the growth of a healthy and diverse aquatic plant population, and degrades the general water quality.

## **10) Rental Properties**

The MFA Board of Directors has been prompted to review the topic of renting cabins for use by the general public due to its continued growth and lack of regulation. We will be doing so over the next few months.

## **11) MFA calendar**

- August 29, 2020 MFA Annual Meeting.
- October 3, 2020 Board of Directors meeting - Fall
- January 23, 2021 Board of Directors meeting - Winter
- April 10, 2021 Board of Directors meeting - Spring
- June 12, 2021 MFA's Annual Meeting & BBQ

## **12) Newsletter Distribution Policy**

The Spring/Summer 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, and posted on our website.

Current contact information is critical to communicating with our members! ***Please update your contact information on the MFA website*** by clicking on the "Update your contact information link on the CONTACT tab, or send us an email at [MinongFlowage@gmail.com](mailto:MinongFlowage@gmail.com). Call Karen at 612/708-7159 if you have any questions about providing and updating your contact information. For the time being, we will continue to mail paper newsletters to members in good standing that don't have or use email.

### **CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President: Dan Maxwell	612/817-8257	Treas. & M-shp: Karen Turnquist	612/708-7159
Website: Robert Budden	715/614-2544	CB/CW: Wayne Johnson	612/269-7873
Member at-large: Dave Perrin	651/785-4698	CB/CW: Rockne Johnson	218/728-3689
Member at-large: Joe McGrath	715/466-2370	Member at-large: Paul Gunderson	218/349-9649

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

DNR Tip Line: 800/847-9367  
Douglas County Sheriff: 715/395-1371  
Washburn County Sheriff: 715/468-4700  
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)**