



MINONG FLOWAGE ASSOCIATION

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Minong Flowage Stakeholders 10-27-22 Meeting: MINUTES

Date: October 27, 2022
Time: 9:00am to ~11:00am
Location: DNR Headquarters – Spooner and via Microsoft “Teams” online

Attendance - Onsite:

- Blumer, Dave – LEAPS
- Burns, Lisa – WCAIS
- Danielson, Brian – WCHD
- Fleming, Katie – CLA
- Gunderson, Mary – MFA
- Gunderson, Paul – MFA
- Johnson, Harlan – MFA
- Maxwell, Dan - MFA
- Roberts, Craig – DNR
- Saver, Jason – CLA
- Toshner, Pamela – DNR
- Vande Voort, Ashley – DCAIS
- White, Becky – MFA

Online Attendees:

- Banaszynski, Adrienne – MFA
- Banaszynski, Scott – MFA
- Cottrell, Amy – GLIFWC
- Kreuzscher, Jason- RWE
- Stewart, Zach – DCAIS
- Vogt, Dave – MFA

Opening Remarks: [Dan Maxwell](#)

- Note: A link to the Power Point presentation will be posted on the MFA’s website (MinongFlowage.Org) / Home Page / Hot Topics
- Agenda overview.
- Brief history of Major Events (since 2002’s discovery of EWM on the Minong Flowage).

Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) conditions before, and after the 2021-2022 lake drawdown: [Dave Blumer](#)

- Note: A link to the Power Point presentation will be posted on the MFA’s website (MinongFlowage.Org) / Home Page / Hot Topics
- Primary page = #14 of 30: 2022 Fall EWM Bed Mapping
 - EWM beds were basically eradicated in water depth of zero to 5-feet.
 - EWM beds greater than 5-feet survived the drawdown.
- Manoomin/Wild Rice beds continue to thrive after the drawdown.

- EWM is present, but not “bed-size”, in the east basin (rice beds).
- Manoomin/Wild Rice beds were rated as “average” by GLIFW’s aerial report, which implies no significant harm caused by the drawdown.

Open Discussion:

- The general consensus of the group is that the drawdown appears to be an effective tool for controlling shallow-water EWM and should remain in the 5-year APM (Aquatic Plant Management) plan.
 - Toshner:
 - The DNR currently considers herbicides & drawdowns to be an effective tool for controlling EWM when certain criteria are met.
 - The “Minong Flowage EWM project” is likely to be the most comprehensive project of its kind in the state.
 - Roberts:
 - The 2022 annual walleye survey for “Young Of The Year” statistic came in at **216 YOY walleye per mile of lakeshore**.
 - This is a significantly higher number than recent surveys for any lake in our area.
 - The DNR will continue to encourage harvest of smaller walleye to support the expansion of larger walleye sizes over time.
 - This survey focus’ on walleye, but often blue gill is observed in the dip nets. This year’s blue gill observations were remarkably higher than any year in recent memory.
 - The DNR continues to plan on a species-wide fish survey next year if budgets and schedules allow.
 - Johnson:
 - Getting good feedback on the EWM eradication efforts.
 - Rice is noticeably expanding along the river channel west of Smith’s bridge.
 - Stewart:
 - Rice support is a priority item in the Douglas County 5-year plan.
 - White:
 - Discussion: What can the MFA recommend for individuals to do in the EWM control effort?
 - Burns:
 - Echoes the comments of the group.
 - Are there any comparable drawdown studies or efforts throughout Wisconsin?
 - “There are lots of lakes that do drawdowns for various reasons, but not directly comparable to this one”.
 - Vande Voort:
 - Can any natural factors have affected the EWM changes?
 - “None that can be easily identified”.
 - How is the trigger point threshold calculated for go/no-go control efforts?
 - “Influenced by parameters of each individual lake, not a specific statewide standard calculation”.
 - Douglas County is not “pro herbicides”, which will affect EWM control permit requests.
 - Gunderson:
 - The growth of boat traffic is adversely affecting the lake on many parameters, not just EWM.
 - Danielson:
 - From the county’s perspective, the drawdown project went well.
 - The rate water level reduction is not an exact science. The managers need a free-hand to do the day-to-day activities.
 - Many other Washburn County lakes do winter drawdowns for assorted reasons.

- Given a choice, they would rather have the 5-foot target date be October 15th, rather than November 1st.
 - Saver:
 - Will Cranberry Lake be included in the 2023 Point Intercept survey?
 - “To be determined”.
 - Could a combination of hand-pulling and other methods be more efficient?
 - “Would not be easy to administer and manage”.
 - Cranberry Lake’s plant population (not just EWM) has exploded in recent years. What can be done?
 - “To be determined, but most control efforts only focus on invasive species, not native plants”.
 - Fleming:
 - Why is Cranberry Lake’s water clearer than the Minong Flowage’s?
 - “It is spring-fed”. “It’s water doesn’t come from the Totagatic River”.
 - Is it OK to encourage individuals to use “Aquacide” type products on their shoreline?
 - “Only if they have a permit, which is difficult to get”.
 - “Such activity is subject to citations and fines”.
 - Kreuzscher:
 - Credit for the entire process goes to the team manages the dam on a day-to-day basis.
 - RWE’s felt that the process went smoothly.
 - Minus 5-feet is the recommended depth limit. Any deeper risks turbine damage.

Respectfully submitted to meeting attendees, drawdown committee members and MFA board members.

Dan Maxwell
MFA Drawdown Committee