



MINONG FLOWAGE ASSOCIATION

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MFA Board Meeting Minutes

Approved by Board via email: 8/29/22

Date: July 30, 2022

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Cabin of Harlan Johnson, 16630 S. Eagle Point Road, Minong

Board Member Attendance: Adrienne Banaszynski (Treasurer), Paul Gundersen, Harlan Johnson (President), Dave Vogt, Becky White, Brian White, and Kim Zeuli (Secretary). Absent: David Marsh, Karen Turnquist

Other Attendees: Dan Maxwell, Steve Johnson, and Dave Blumer (lake association consultant, LEAPS)

1. Call to Order - Harlan Johnson, President

2. Attendance, Informal Introductions, Roles - Everyone

3. Agenda change requests. Agenda finalized. Meeting agenda approved.

4. Flowage Drawdown Update - Dave Blumer (LEAPS)

- Anecdotally, water quality is good, but still some EWM. Preliminary studies show that it may be in 7'-9' of water, which means the drawdown did not impact it (survey will be done in August/September). The best option is for herbicide treatment in 2023. The current grant goes through 2023, which includes the creation of a new lake management plan in spring.
- If MFA needs a grant to offset the cost of the herbicide treatment, the first part is due Sep 15 with the final application due Nov 15. The MFA could also use unused grant funds which should be sufficient for covering the cost of the herbicide treatment for the most significantly impacted areas.
- EWM growth in the last 3-5 years has stopped at around 5', but it is now in deeper waters. It may have been there before, but with greater water clarity (due to drawdown and less rain than normal), it is now growing in deeper water.
- As soon as the lake survey is completed, Dave recommends MFA put in a herbicide treatment application permit to DNR. Dave will find out parameters for the herbicide treatment in our existing lake management plan. The goal is to manage EWM, as it will never be eradicated.
- It was also suggested that the option of an herbicide treatment in 2023 should be surfaced at the final grant stakeholder meeting the end of October.

5. Treasurer's Report - Adrienne Banaszynski

- Current balance in MFA checking is \$60,585.56.
- Outstanding (un-cashed) check of \$28k to Washburn County Highway Dept. for reimbursement of their reduced revenue from dam power generation during the lake level drawdown last winter.
- Deposits from new and renewing association members.

- Adrienne will ask Peggy Bruzda (former Treasurer) for a financial summary report that would be a brief, standard, consistent report to be distributed at each Board meeting. Would be helpful to Board members as a snapshot of the MFA finances.
- Adrienne will look into changing banking locations for the MFA accounts from Spooner to be more easily accessible at Bank of Shell Lake in Minong.

6. Clean Boats Clean Water (CBCW) Update - Paul Gundersen

- Paul still needs to connect with Rockne Johnson, former Board member handling the CBCW tasks, for a transition of duties and documents.
- Discussed volunteers needed for the boat launch locations other than the county campground. May or may not pursue for this summer's boating season. Three Minong Flowage boat launch locations currently do not have periodic volunteers to inform boaters about invasive species, cleaning off boats & trailers, etc. Those being: DNR Boat Landing on Flowage Road, Smith Bridge, Pogo's boat launch (alongside Co Rd T).
- Harlan Johnson received a call from an association member willing to volunteer a few hours to monitor one of the boat launches. Name passed on to Paul for follow-up.
- Invasive species: Eurasian Water Milfoil: new discussion and concern about the effectiveness of the winter lake level drawn down. (See Dave Blumer's report above). Zebra mussels: currently not found in the Minong Flowage but are in lakes as close as Big McKenzie. Chinese Mystery Snails: Lakeshore owners have reported the appearance of very large (golf ball sized, dark brown) spiral shaped snails. These are not native to our waters but any adverse affects are still being determined. If found in the sand and shallow waters, simply pickup and toss into the woods away from the lake to kill them. Manual removal also helps to prevent cuts to bare feet from these sharp, hard shells.

7. New Buoys Update - Dave Vogt

- Dave and Paul jointly presented the installation of new marker buoys at the shallow-water bend in the lake down toward the dam. Old buoys were thought to be approx. 20 yrs old and needed to be replaced. New buoys are larger, very sturdy. Hired Whitetail Waterworks to install the new buoys. May consider this new type of buoy for other locations on the lake, for example the low-wake buoys in the channel by Pogo's (Co Rd T). Dave mentioned that those specific buoys have been run over many times, that they are tattered and not as noticeable. Also recommended one additional buoy in the Pogo's channel to alert boaters of the required longer distance for slow no/wake.
- Several other hazardous locations on the lake that potentially could be marked with buoys, will be added to the agenda for the next Board meeting.

8. Membership Update – Becky White

- Three new members recently joined the MFA. As noted at the June Annual meeting – the MFA has approximately 205 members (counting only one person per lakeshore property) out of the 335 total lakeshore properties.
- To encourage new membership, discussion to create and print a small (1½ sheet or smaller) flyer to promote the MFA with a few facts about the association, benefits to join, how to contact the board, membership, etc. Board members (and existing association members who want a few copies), will then have an actual flyer to physically hand out to anyone asking about the association.
- A request was made to use our Constant Contact association database to compare with overall Washburn & Douglas county lakeshore owners listing. Determine the owners who are not currently MFA members (some may be brand new owners), and then divide up the list of non-members amongst the Board members to simply stop and say “Hi” to these non-members and offer to leave the new association flyer (mentioned above.)
- Newsletters are sent via email when possible and through US mail when we don't have a valid email address. This is for both existing and potential members. The 2022 Spring newsletter sent via US mail

cost was roughly \$600. A suggestion is that we end sending via US mail and work with existing and potential members to acquire valid email addresses to reduce the amount of physical mail that is sent. This will be discussed further at our next meeting.

- To promote communication from the association Board thanking new and renewing association members, discussion was had to locate (and possibly update) both the “Welcome” and the “Thanks for Renewal” letters that Karen Turnquist previously generated. Going forward – have an ongoing task to send the respective letter to the members in a timely manner. Harlan took the task to locate the existing documents.

9. MFA Website Refresh and MFA Facebook page - Becky White

- Both the existing MFA website and the new MFA Facebook page are both good tools to promote the MFA.
 - i. Facebook page will focus on more fluid current events, pictures, help promote local businesses and events, etc. It will become a public site for others to ‘follow’ vs ‘join’ after the website is refreshed (see below). There will be regular updates to link to resources within the MFA website for specific topics to keep issues current, such as invasive species.
 - ii. Website will continue to focus on the organizational side of the association such as lake facts, association information, DNR info, By-Laws, membership and resources
- Website Refresh
 - i. Becky and Harlan have begun reorganizing and updating website content, re-labeling menu options, making content easier to search with the intent to make it more intuitive for the type of user. Example: Landing (home) page focus towards non-members visiting the area.
 - ii. Working with Robert Budden (current MFA contact with website vendor, CCS – Hayward) to determine what modifications can easily be accomplished at no cost. And then, if needed, determine any extensive modifications that would improve the website but we may be charged a fee from CCS.
 - iii. Less clicks to become a member and/or renew membership
 - iv. Add more resources/items of interest to the general public (i.e., ‘what to do’)
 - v. Gradually deploy website updates over the next several months after board approval

10. Other Topics

- Steve Johnson mentioned his documentation of the July 4th activities at Sand Island. (Large slip & slide plastic sheeting, large numbers of participants.) Large group activities such as this are detrimental to the small islands, but the MFA does not have authority for policing such activities. Notes and pictures are saved for future comparison of the adverse affects to the island. Also, an email conversation with the Washburn DNR occurred.
- Follow-up to the letter of appreciation sent to the Washburn County Hiway Department for the excellent work and cooperation from Brian Danielson. This was recommended by Joe McGrath at the June Annual Meeting where a motion passed to send the letter on behalf of the MFA. A “Thank you” was received back from Brian to Steve Johnson – who shared this with the Board members.

Adjournment:

- A motion to adjourn was unanimously approved at 9:40PM

A reminder to the board to track their volunteer hours on the MFA website. This is important for grants. The link for tracking: <http://minongflowage.org/volunteer/log-volunteer-hours/>

MFA Board Future Meetings:

- Tentative Board meeting scheduled in September after the survey of the lake condition and weed growth has been received. Date TBD

MFA Board Standing Meeting Calendar:

- Fall—October
- Winter—January
- Spring—April
- Summer—Annual meeting: 2nd Saturday of June (6-10-23)