



MINONG FLOWAGE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 167 / Minong, WI 54859
minongflowage@gmail.com

MFA Board Meeting Minutes

Date: January 14, 2023
Time: 10:00 am
Location: Residence of Dave Vogt

Board Member Attendance: Harlan Johnson (President), Adrienne Banaszynski (Treasurer)*, Brian White (Secretary), Dave Vogt, Becky White, Paul Gundersen*, Marcia Vogt

Other Attendees: Dan Maxwell, Dave Blumer*

** Denotes remote/virtual attendance*

CALL TO ORDER - Harlan Johnson, President

- The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

ATTENDANCE, AGENDA SPECIFICS AND CHANGES

- Review of attendees and guests, those present, remote, and absent.
- David Marsh and Karen Turnquist have resigned from the Board since the last quarterly meeting.
- Currently being short of enough serving Board members to vote per the by-laws, the Board can appoint interim Board members until the next Annual Meeting. Harlan appointed Marcia Vogt who was present and agreed to serve as an interim Board member.

STANDING REPORTS

- a. Treasurer's Report - Adrienne Banaszynski
 - Revenue and Expenses through 01/12/2023 were reviewed.
 - All LEAPS payments have been made.
 - A land conservation credit payment of \$200 from Douglas County was received and deposited.
 - There is still the outstanding (un-cashed) check of \$28,588.70 to the Washburn County Highway Dept. for reimbursement of reduce revenue from dam power generation during the lake level drawdown last winter.

- Dan had previously discussed the potential where-about and status of the check with Brian Danielsen (Washburn County Highway Commissioner) and volunteered to follow-up once again.
 - A motion was made by Becky W. to have Dan act on behalf of the Board to contact Washburn County on the status of the outstanding check payment. The motion was seconded by Dave V. There was no further discussion. A vote was taken on the motion: Yes – 7, No – 0. The motion was passed.
- The Check register was reviewed.
- Current balance in MFA checking is \$47,500.95 (pending clearing of the aforementioned \$28,588.70 reimbursement check).
- b. Membership Report – Becky White
 - Current paid membership is 206.
 - Additional membership topics will be discussed later in the meeting.
- c. Lake Management Committee – Dan Maxwell
 - Dan provided a recap of the grant process. The Association needs to identify various habitat improvements (like fish sticks). Dan had provided supporting documents to the Board via email prior to the meeting. The Association also needs to itemize everything we are doing, paying for, etc. (such as invoices). Once completed and submitted, grant issuance via check is relatively prompt. Dan will be finalizing the materials and sending them in soon.
 - Reminder for everyone to log their volunteer hours by the end of the coming week. Dave B. indicated that we do not yet have a record of volunteer hours from Swift Nature camp, and that he would follow-up with the camp for that information.
 - Becky noted that she will assist Dan in the process of pulling together additional overall volunteer hour details and getting them recorded.
 - Harlan will sign the final documentation prior to submitting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Washburn County Campground Task Force – Paul Gundersen
 - Paul is continuing to attend local government meetings to monitor concerns and potential emerging ordinances. Currently there aren't any noted concerns for properties on the flowage within Washburn County.
 - There was a brief discussion concerning VRBO and Airbnb properties and the reminder for property owners to follow township and local government annual licensing requirements.
2. Grant Applications – Harlan Johnson
 - Much of the grant application process was discussed earlier in the meeting with Dan Maxwell.
 - Currently, there are three grants in progress. Dave Blumer provided details on each of the grants, summarized from reports he provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Dave B. also recapped activities, tasks, initiatives, and statuses of each of the three grants.
 - It was noted that at some point in the near future that the Board will need to discuss the details in pursuing another grant if the next lake management plan is approved by the DNR. Dan M. further clarified that the DNR must approve the plan prior to the Association applying for the grant. The initial date for pre-grant approval would be Sept. 15, and the final

approval date would be Nov. 15. Dan M. also noted that much of the groundwork for the next grant application is already in place.

3. Washburn County Tourism Association Membership – Harlan Johnson
 - Harlan noted that he will need to sign the third phase of the LEAPS contract (2023).
 - A motion was made by Becky to have Harlan proceed with signing the final phase of the LEAPS contract. The motion was seconded by Marcia V. There was no further discussion. A vote was taken on the motion: Yes – 7, No – 0. The motion was passed.
 - Harlan also mentioned that the membership dues have been paid for the Washburn County Tourism Association.

4. Electronic Document Storage/Archive for MFA – Brian White
 - Brian provided a status update on the registration and adoption of the Microsoft 365 non-profit subscription planned to be utilized for electronic document storage and video conferencing. Registration approval is currently being evaluated by Microsoft, and we could see approval by the end of the coming week.
 - A subset of the Board will need to meet to work on defining file folder hierarchy to be put in place.
 - A concern was raised about how far back to keep paper information, but no details were finalized at this point.

5. Increased Boat Traffic – Dave Vogt
 - Dave V. provided a picture of what the new buoys to be deployed in 2023 look like, which now shows a speed limit for boaters for follow.
 - Dan M. recommended that the milfoil buoys on the flowage (south of Pogo’s channel) be updated/replaced due to their deteriorating condition. Dan also asked that the Association consider hiring or outsourcing the installation and removal of buoys during the boating season. Dave V. and Paul have committed to follow-up with some trusted local resources to contract for this task. The Board can review and vote on the researched expense by the next Board meeting.
 - Harlan shared a recent article from a Wisconsin-based publication about concerns from wake boats and the damage they do to the lake bottom. The goal is to raise awareness of the concerns and to encourage best practices as the Minong Flowage is not an optimal lake for this kind of craft (as is it is shallow).
 - There was a recommendation by the Board to post educational information and signage regarding no-wake guidelines – similar to what is in place at landings on Lake Nancy. Becky volunteered to research viable solutions for this recommendation.

6. Website/Membership Communications – Becky White
 - Becky provided a quick update on MFA membership. We have 2 new memberships in the last quarter bringing our total to 206.
 - Becky also noted that there are some challenges with current email addresses for members in the Constant Contact messaging system, as there were 12 bounce-back messages from the last Association communication and 32 “not opened” messages – which is indicative that those addresses are not valid. It was recommended to provide additional communications via the website and Facebook for MFA members to update their email address.

- The promotional flyer introduced at the last meeting has changed to the idea of creating business cards with MFA information and a QR code that can be quickly scanned by a mobile phone that launches the MFA website. Business cards can be easily carried and distributed to others or made available on bulletin boards at local businesses.
- Becky W. reported that MFA Facebook group subscribers increased from just over 60 to 101 in the past quarter. Everyone should encourage others other invite their friends, neighbors, and relatives to join the group as it is a great resource for information on the Minong area and Association membership is not required.

NEW BUSINESS

1. MFA Structure/Governing Articles – Becky White and Harlan Johnson
 - Becky reported that website enhancements are still in progress. There is a goal to adopt some design concepts from other associations, as they have some great content, organization, and information that our site can further benefit from.
 - It was recommended that the MFA by-laws be reviewed, updated, and approved at the next annual meeting. Dave B. pointed out that our by-laws must have certain language that meets DNR criteria. In addition, membership dues cannot exceed \$50 as the association would not meet the required status nor qualify for future grants.
 - Becky brought forth the recommendation to form additional committees to engage in the work efforts that are needed. Additional discussion is likely needed to define what those committees are. Becky would like to then communicate these committees on the website.
2. MFA Board Vacancies – Harlan Johnson
 - Harlan discussed the idea of trying to operate similar to other non-profit boards, which could be accounted for in updates to our by-laws. Terms and durations should be reviewed and updated to be more in alignment with current trends.
 - In filling vacancies per the by-laws, the Board can appoint an individual to serve until the next Annual Meeting. Harlan is in the process of following up with some individuals and has asked that all other future recommendations be forwarded to him as the main point of contact.
3. 2023 MFA Member Activities
 - The Board discussed ideas for MFA family events and potential fund raisers, and the need to get those finalized and on the calendar.
 - Becky, Adrienne, Marcia, and Dave V. volunteered to work on the planning and details for these activities.
4. Annual Due Increase Discussion
 - There was a discussion on the subject of raising MFA membership dues. There is the requirement that dues cannot exceed \$50. Any due changes would need to be addressed and approved at the next Annual Meeting.
5. Other Topics & General Discussion

- Dave B. provided a further update on milfoil treatment. Physical removal can still be done, and herbicides can be used if we meet the requirement. There are still 20 acres of milfoil mapped, and 10 potential treatment areas totaling 173 acres. Dave reviewed a spreadsheet with scenarios of possible treatments, and which requirements and limitations are driving the scenarios. Scenario 2 was determined to be the best plan to proceed with. A motion was made by Harlan to proceed with a proposal for an application to apply herbicide treatments in the mapped areas. The motion was seconded by Dave V. There was no further discussion. A vote was taken on the motion: Yes – 7, No – 0. The motion was passed.
- A question was raised in regards to businesses on the flowage being eligible to become MFA members. It was agreed that additional discussion on this topic was needed and could be facilitated via email.

ADJOURNMENT

- A motion was made by Brian W. to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Becky W. A vote was taken on the motion: Yes – 7, No – 0. The MFA Board meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.
-

MFA Board Standing Meeting Calendar

- Fall – October
- Winter – January
- Spring – April
- Summer – Annual meeting: 2nd Saturday of June (6/10/2023)