



MINONG FLOWAGE ASSOCIATION

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MFA Board Meeting Minutes

Date: April 15, 2023
Time: 9:30 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, Richard Fortman

Other Attendees: Steve Johnson, Dave Blumer*

** Denotes remote/virtual attendance*

CALL TO ORDER - Harlan Johnson, President

- The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am.

ATTENDANCE, AGENDA SPECIFICS AND CHANGES

- Review of attendees and guests, those present, remote, and absent.
- Harlan introduced Richard Fortman as a newly appointed Board member (as permitted by the by-laws) who will be serving through the remainder of the current term until the next Annual Meeting in June.
- There were no agenda change requests.

STANDING REPORTS

- a. Treasurer's Report - Adrienne Banaszynski
 - Revenue and Expenses through 04/10/2023 were reviewed.
 - The previous outstanding (un-cashed) check of \$28,588.70 to the Washburn County Highway Dept. for reimbursement of reduced revenue from dam power generation during the lake level drawdown over the 2021-2022 winter has finally cleared, leaving us with a clean balance sheet.
 - The Check register was reviewed.
 - Current balance in MFA checking is \$20,654.00.
 - Our financial institution – Bank of the West, is being acquired by BMO. No further action was recommended at this time.
- b. Membership Report – Becky White

- Current paid membership remains at 206. This is unchanged from the last report in January. Becky noted that there are approximately 330 properties on the Minong Flowage to draw the bulk of our membership from.
 - A detailed membership report will be provided at the upcoming annual meeting in June.
- c. Lake Management Committee – Dave Blumer
- Dave B. provided a recap of the current milfoil status and new management plan choices the MFA will have to decide upon soon. Again, the 2021-2022 winter draw-down wasn't as effective as planned. Given that we are nearing the end of our current 3-year grant, the go-forward question to be answered is if we want to proceed with getting approval to perform chemical treatments in select areas of the flowage. Three specific focus areas include the (Lake Delacore) pond area by the county campground, the flat lake bottom in front of the campground, and the big bay to the south of the Cranberry Flowage. These areas total 25 acres in total. To proceed, the MFA would need to submit a request for a permit as soon as possible.
 - Steve Johnson pointed out that our current 3-year grant did not include the use of chemical treatments.
 - Dave also mentioned that he will again attend this year's MFA Annual Meeting and be presenting information highlighting the results of last year's draw-down and future lake management options.
 - Additional information will be provided by Dave for the upcoming annual MFA newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Status of Current MFA Board of Directors Positions – Harlan Johnson
 - a. Richard Fortman (introduced at the start of the meeting) has been formally appointed by Harlan. Rich who will be serving through the remainder of the current term until the next Annual Meeting in June, where he will then have the opportunity to seek election to the Board for a full two-year term.
 - b. Harlan stated that the MFA Board still has one open position, and that he knows of two association members that also have an interest in serving and has encouraged them to run for election to the Board at the Annual Meeting in June.
2. Washburn County Campground Task Force – Paul Gundersen
 - a. Paul provided an update on the Heartwood Resort campground permit which was affected by current Washburn County Zoning laws. Paul also mentioned that Douglas County has per acre restrictions that govern the issuance of their permits.
 - b. Steve Johnson added that he was informed that there would be no further expansion at the county park campground on the flowage as the additional volume of work and overhead would be too much for them to manage.
3. Aquatic Plan Management Plan – Steve Johnson
 - a. A full update will be provided during “New Business”.
4. Hazard Buoys & Signage – Dave Vogt & Paul Gundersen
 - a. Paul now has the new buoys and is working on an agreement with Lance Sohn (local contractor, Whitetail Waterworks) to both install and remove the buoys this season. The goal is to have the new buoys deployed by Memorial weekend. Paul is planning to initially

accompany Lance when installing in the milfoil areas, and Dave V. will assist when installing the buoys in the channel area near Pogo's.

- b. There was additional discussion in putting buoys on sandbars for safety reasons, but those would need a permit. Paul indicated he would provide a contact for the permit process to the rest of the board.
 - c. It was stated that the Association will reimburse Paul for the buoy purchase expenses
 - d. There was discussion of adding signage to the 3 landings (DNR, campground, and Pogo's) the list the rules and restrictions for boating on the flowage. Concerns were also raised with the damaging effects wake boats have on the lake bottom and the flowage being relatively shallow. It was suggested that signage could also include educational content to assist visitors in making well-informed decisions when planning to enjoy the lake.
5. By-Laws Re-Write – Becky White & Harlan Johnson
- a. Becky provided an update on the association by-laws. The version on the website was last updated in 2014. There is a review underway to update the content and make the by-laws current. There have been several review sessions to date, including revisions focusing on Board member terms and term length. Membership eligibility qualifiers are also being reviewed to provide more clarity.
 - b. Harlan and Becky asked the Board to read through the current draft and provide feedback for the final version over the course of the coming week.
 - c. Becky stated that any changes to the by-laws must be approved at the MFA Annual Meeting.
 - d. There was additional discussion on ideas to both strengthen the process and more easily facilitate voting at the Annual Meeting, although no final decision on a change was made.
6. Misc. Topics – Quick Updates
- a. Annual Dues Discussion – Becky White & Harlan Johnson
 - A decision was reached to not propose or state a change to association membership dues at the upcoming annual meeting, but will address the need to further review potential changes during the coming Board year.
 - There was mention of suggesting financial donations to the association, but a required amount cannot be stated.
 - There was also discussion regarding sponsorship within the MFA annual newsletter or the website. No further action was taken beyond the discussion.
 - b. Electronic Document Storage/Archive for MFA – Brian White
 - Brian discussed that the Microsoft 365 subscription for the MFA is up and running with Board member user assignments, and that the association qualified for the no-cost nonprofit organization license. Brian mentioned the site can be used for on-going electronic storage for past, present, and future documents, as well as using the video conferencing features for meetings with remote participants.
 - c. AIS Grants – Harlan Johnson & Steve Johnson
 - Harlan and Steve stated that much of the information on grants was discussed previously. It was also mentioned that it is possible for more grant opportunity to come from Douglas County.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Member Communications – Becky White & Adrienne Banaszynski
 - Becky mentioned that she will be working on the annual newsletter during the new few weeks. Steve suggested adding content to the newsletter in regards to the lockbox at the campground landing, as the donation dollars go directly towards MFA funds. There have been concerns shared from property owners on the flowage that they feel they are obligated to pay to use the landing even though they reside on the lake, but that is not the case and it would be a good idea to state that there is no requirement to pay. There was also a suggestion to add content on how the dam operates on the flowage, especially given the current spring thaw.
 - Becky also discussed including content in the newsletter on milfoil updates, association by-laws, a reminder on the upcoming annual meeting and picnic, summer activities being planned, various educational items, other/misc. ideas from the Board, and a letter from the MFA Board President.
 - Harlan mentioned that the previous idea for a flyer has been replaced by the concept of a business card. Becky distributed a prototype card to everyone at the meeting, and the feedback was very positive.
 - Becky mentioned that it would be nice to have some association banners displayed during the annual meeting picnic, and that Dan has agreed to provide those that he still has that were used in previous years.
 - Becky asked if anyone had any feedback regarding the updated website content and would welcome any suggestions and ideas for additional content.
 - Becky also mentioned that she has been reposting relevant area items on Facebook to the MFA Facebook page to help in promoting local business, events, and on-goings.
2. 2023 MFA Member Activities – Activities Committee (Dave Vogt, Marcia Vogt, Adrienne Banaszynski, Harlan Johnson, Becky White)
 - Harlan provided an update from the last committee meeting. The MFA typically doesn't do as much as other neighboring associations, so we are going to try our hand at doing more.
 - Harlan mentioned that some area businesses have agreed to purchase food for the annual meeting picnic at wholesale cost. Harlan indicated that the committee is estimating about 50 attendees for the picnic to plan for.
 - Dave V. mentioned that the Board will need someone to represent the MFA and be available for questions and information sharing at each stop during the Wascott parade on Tuesday, July 4.
 - Marcia recommended considering the idea to move the proposed Bingo event to the end of September to more easily drawn in people versus a nicer Saturday afternoon at the end of July.
 - Harlan suggested that the MFA Board staff a tent for visibility during Minong Days.
 - Harlan also mentioned that he is inquiring with area businesses about the possibility of purchasing ice cream bars at wholesale cost for the ice cream boat event this summer.
3. Aquatic Plan Management Plan – Lake Management Committee (Steve Johnson, Harlan Johnson)
 - Steve spoke about the need to decide what to do this year for a go-forward lake management plan, as we are currently in the last year of the existing 3-year plan. Steve

emphasized the need to get a new plan in place and shared his concern about getting the new plan done by September of this year. The DNR has not provided much indication as to what would be approved in a new plan. Steve discussed that while previous legal rules state that herbicides cannot be used on any lake in WI with wild rice, although new exceptions are being allowed for certain herbicides. Steve also indicated that the committee is trying to get a stakeholders meeting scheduled with the MFA, DNR, and Tribal Resources. The main concern for this meeting is the deep-water milfoil.

- A motion was made by Harlan J. to apply for an herbicide permit focusing on the 3 areas discussed earlier during the Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Becky W. A vote was taken on the motion: Yes – 7, No – 0. The motion was passed.

4. MFA Annual Members Meeting – Harlan Johnson

- Harlan reviewed the schedule for the upcoming MFA Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for Saturday, June 10, 2023 at 9:15 a.m. in the Wascott Town Hall. There will be a free picnic for association members and their families after the meeting. The Board discussed needs for the picnic such as grills, banners, and any food, drink, or monetary donations. It was also mentioned that the picnic would be included in the newsletter when it is published.

5. DNR Summer Activity on the Minong Flowage – Paul Gundersen, Harlan Johnson, & Steve Johnson

- Paul provided an update on who will volunteer and assist with monitoring the landings this summer.
- Harlan passed out samples of branded towels from Douglas County with verbiage to “Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers”. Harlan mentioned that he has a few hundred available and will be passed out to boaters at the landings.
- Harlan announced that Washburn County will be performing a creel check/survey this spring/summer and will have a boat on the flowage for several months. Harlan noted that the survey is purely information gathering, and not intended to police fishing regulations.
- Steve mentioned that fyke nets will soon be set up by the DNR at Smith Bridge to perform a fish population study on Northern Pike.

6. Other Topics & General Discussion

- Harlan mentioned the concerns from neighbors and area residents about the discontinuation of driveway snowplowing by the Town of Minong, but stated that there is nothing the association can do about the decision.
- Upcoming DNR Seminars & Conventions were reviewed.
 - i. April 19-21, 2023 – WI Lakes & Rivers Convention (Stevens Point, WI)
 - ii. June 23, 2023 – NW Wisconsin Lake Conference (Spooner High School, Spooner, WI)
- Dan Maxwell (MFA Lake Management Committee) is presenting a session on the successful DNR support and management of our Minong Flowage at the June 23 conference in Spooner.
- Harlan encouraged the Board to attend Dan’s presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

- A motion was made by Becky W. to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Brian W. A vote was taken on the motion: Yes – 7, No – 0. The MFA Board meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.
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MFA Board Standing Meeting Calendar

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