



MINONG FLOWAGE ASSOCIATION

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## **MFA Annual Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** June 10, 2023

**Time:** 10:00 am

**Location:** Wascott Town Hall

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

**Other Participating and Committee Attendees:** Steve Johnson, Dan Maxwell, Dave Blumer (LEAPS)

### **CALL TO ORDER**

- MFA Board President Harlan Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

### **ATTENDANCE COUNT – ESTABLISH & CONFIRM QUORUM**

- MFA Board Secretary Brian White stated that attendance was 61 out of 127 current paid memberships. Brian confirmed that a quorum was met and the annual meeting could proceed.

### **INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND LAKES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

- Harlan introduced the current and interim Board members as well as the Lake Management Committee to the attendees.

### **AGENDA CHANGE REQUESTS – VOTE TO APPROVE AGENDA**

- Harlan opened the floor to the attendees for any agenda changes. No agenda changes were requested.
- A motion was made from the floor to accept the agenda as provided. The motion was seconded from the floor. There was no further discussion. A vote was taken on the motion: Yes – Unanimous, No – 0. The motion was passed.

### **REVIEW OF 2022 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES AND MEMBERSHIP VOTE TO APPROVE MINUTES**

- Harlan briefly reviewed the minutes from the 2022 MFA Annual Meeting, and that paper copies can be provided by request.
- Becky mentioned that meeting minutes are published to the MFA website generally two weeks after a meeting.

- A motion was made from the floor to accept the 2022 MFA Annual Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded from the floor. There was no further discussion. A vote was taken on the motion: Yes – Unanimous, No – 0. The motion was passed.

## **STANDING REPORTS**

- a. Treasurer's Report - Adrienne Banaszynski
  - Adrienne provided an overview of the Treasurer's report.
  - Revenue for the period June 1, 2022 – May 31, 2023 totaled \$20,670.87. The largest amount in this total was from the drawdown DNR grant.
  - Expenses during the same period were \$50,000. Much of this expense was for the lake management work performed by LEAPS. Other notable expenses were for new and replacement buoys used for milfoil areas and no-wake zones. It was also noted that the \$28,000.00 reimbursement expense for lost power revenue and expenses during the drawdown to the county had finally cleared.
  - Other miscellaneous sources of revenue and expenses were briefly reviewed.
  - The current balance is \$32,240.06.
- b. Membership Report – Becky White
  - Becky provided an update on membership, and an overview of how membership is counted.
  - It was noted that previous membership reports were skewed as property owners and co-owners were both counted as part of total membership, whereas only the primary owner should have been counted (thus erroneously inflating the reported membership tally).
  - 203 memberships were reported last year. The adjusted current membership count is 127.
- c. Lake Management Committee Report – Steve Johnson, Dan Maxwell
  - Steve provided an update on lake management activities.
  - The committee and volunteers have been primarily focused on invasive species, and have been working with the DNR, and both local and tribal resources.
  - Activities for the past year have been continued monitoring of the results from the recent drawdown, and presenting 2023 lake management options to the MFA Board.
  - An application to use herbicide was recently submitted and approved, with treatments applied in two high-density milfoil areas on the Minong Flowage as of 2 weeks ago.
  - The current lake management plan expires this year, and the committee is working on a new 3-year plan as the association is not able to get any further grants until the new plan is approved.
  - The committee recently participated in a promising plan review meeting with all resources, and future management planning is to continue to move forward as aggressively as possible.
  - It was announced that Dave Blumer (LEAPS) will be retiring soon, and the association will need to find a replacement for his services.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Update of Project to Revise/Re-write Association Bylaws – Becky White, Harlan Johnson
  - Harlan mentioned that we are revisiting an initiative to make final updates on association bylaws from a 2020 revision that had not been officially approved as of yet.
  - There is feedback from the current Board that some context should be added to the bylaws that outline basic limitations around dual-household Board member volunteers and the roles

that they serve. It has also been suggested to consider modeling after other nearby lake association bylaws.

- There had been some challenges and confusion initially in locating the most recently approved bylaws. The Board will continue to move forward in finalizing bylaws and will eventually post on the MFA website to seek final approval from the association.
- Member Joe McGrath commented from the floor on the situation leading to the 2020 revisions, and recommended sending the final approved version to the DNR.

## 2. Records Retention – Harlan Johnson, Brian White

- Harlan introduced the challenge in passing association information from previous Board members to current Board members, as documents, notes, and other records on paper sometimes get lost, misplaced, or simply forgotten.
- Brian provided an overview on how electronic storage and collaboration tools can help to centralize legacy and go-forward information that will significantly aid the Board in operating more efficiently and making better-informed decisions for managing the quality of the lake.
- The association has been approved for and implemented a non-profit (no-cost) version of Microsoft 365, and has started to add and organize MFA documents on the site. Additional information will be migrated and added to the site for centralization and on-going reference as it is provided.

## 3. Hazard Buoys & Signage – Dave Vogt, Paul Gundersen

- Paul and Dave V. provided updates on buoys on the Minong Flowage.
- The new buoys will be used for “No Wake” zones and to indicate milfoil areas. Final deployment of the buoys will wrap up over the next few days.
- It was mentioned that buoys need to be permitted by the appropriate township prior to being deployed.
- Harlan provided an update regarding the recent concerns of wake boats and their effect on a shallow lake (such as the Minong Flowage). While wakeboarding can be a fun watersport activity, the average depth of the Minong Flowage (12 ft) is less than the depth typically generated by a wake boat (15 ft).
- Member Joe McGrath mentioned from the floor that the association should consider petitioning our state legislators to help with establishing some wake boat guidelines for lakes in the state.

## 4. Washburn County Campground Task Force – Paul Gundersen

- Paul provided a brief update on the expansion of area campgrounds and the impact on existing infrastructure without financial accountability to improve the infrastructure.
- Member Joe McGrath mentioned from the floor concerns shared by several association members with the capacity overuse (per the size of the unit) of some area Airbnb’s and the impacts to supporting infrastructure.
- Some guidance was offered as to how to check if a unit is licensed per local ordinances.

## 5. Member Communications – Becky White, Adrienne Banaszynski

- Harlan provided comments on the most recent association newsletter.
- Becky mentioned that this would be the last mailed version of the newsletter, and that future versions would be published electronically and made available on the association website.

Printed/paper copies of the newsletter and postage are a significant expense to the association, but still can be provided to association members upon individual request.

- Becky also noted that new information is being provided on Facebook which promotes area businesses and local events and activities, and that others are encouraged to post related content as well.

6. Existing/Expiring Aquatic Plant Management Plan – Dave Blumer, Steve Johnson

- Dave Blumer provided an informative presentation on the MFA's aquatic management plan.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. New Aquatic Plant Management Plan (2024) – Dave Blumer, Steve Johnson

- Dave Blumer continued his presentation outlining plans for the 2024 lake management plan along with status updates on the process.

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

- Paul provided an overview of the Clean Boats/Clean Waters initiative, why it is needed, and how it works. It was mentioned that the MFA has stickers and towels with the “Clean Boats” logo to give away at the landings.
- Harlan mentioned that there is a creel survey (i.e. fish survey) actively taking place on the flowage, and that we hope to hear of the results next year.
- Steve provided an update on another fish population study that the DNR recently performed on the flowage. Steve shared some numbers from that study, which included 996 walleye with an average length of 15”, and 173 northern pike with the largest being 39”.
- Also noted that initial survey results have shown that the recent drawdown did not have a negative impact on fish quantities.
- Harlan discussed an initiative being led by Zach Stewart (Douglas County AIS Specialist) and a request for volunteers to participate in a test for zebra mussels.
- Harlan also provided information on spiny water fleas and their negative impact on walleye.

3. 2023 MFA Member Activities – Activities Committee (Becky White, Dave Vogt, Marcia Vogt, Harlan Johnson, Volunteers: Jan Pierce, Sandy Wallgren)

- Harlan mentioned forthcoming MFA summer activities. The intent is to promote more engaging activity among the association and opportunities to get to know each other.
- Adrienne provided details on the upcoming initiatives.
- Dave V and Marcia are coordinating the activities and may reach out for volunteers to assist.

4. DNR Seminars & Conventions – Dan Maxwell

- This information was presented and discussed in earlier presentations.

5. Board of Directors: Current Status, Nominations, Election – Harlan Johnson

- Harlan stated that there are 3 open Board positions that need to be filled, and that we currently have 7 Board members.
- Marcia is currently an interim Board member, and expressed interest in continuing. There were no other nominations or interest from the association.

- Harlan asked for a vote from the membership to approve Marcia as a full-time board member. A vote was taken: Yes – Unanimous, No – 0.
6. Miscellaneous Topics – Quick Updates
- Becky mentioned that the path ahead for the association may lead to an increase in membership dues. While current annual dues are \$25, we cannot increase beyond \$50 per year with our current non-profit status.
  - Harlan opened the floor for discussion. It was suggested that increasing dues to \$35 per year would be a good compromise, and still offering a discount with a 5-year renewal.
  - Harlan mentioned that we may want to consider moving the MFA annual meeting to the first Saturday in June to avoid conflict with some other area standing events on the second Saturday, which in turn could help with attendance. Attendees present were generally open to the suggestion, and more discussion will take place in the next Board meeting.
  - Dan Maxwell reminded the attendees to log their volunteer hours, as that translates into grant dollars available to us from the DNR. Dan also provided a “fish stick” update, which is part of a grant obligation.
  - Harlan opened the floor for additional miscellaneous topics. It was suggested that we extend an invitation to the DNR for their presence on the flowage during the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.

#### **MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

- A motion was made from the floor to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken on the motion: Yes – Unanimous, No – 0. The MFA Annual Meeting was adjourned at 12:23 pm.
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#### **MFA Scheduled Meetings (exact dates TBD)**

- July 2023 – Board of Directors
- October 2023 – Board of Directors
- January 2024 – Board of Directors
- April 2024 – Board of Directors
- June 2024 – Annual Membership Meeting