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## **MFA Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** November 2, 2024

**Time:** 9:00 am

**Location:** Wascott Town Hall

### **ATTENDANCE**

**Board members:** Harlan Johnson (President), Adrienne Banaszynski (Treasurer), Jim Sakara, Dave Vogt\*, Marcia Vogt\*

**Lake Management Committee:** Dan Maxwell and Steve Johnson

**Others/Guests:** Dave Blumer (LEAPS)

**Absent:** Zoe Wisnoski, Paul Gundersen (notified in advance) *\* Denotes remote/virtual attendance*

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**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 9:00AM by Harlan Johnson (President)

### **Standing Reports**

#### **1. Treasurer's Report – Adrienne Banaszynski**

- Revenue and Expenses are through 10-01-24
- We received \$1,045 in Revenue during the last quarter, all from dues.
- Expenses were \$6,682.
- Current Balance in MFA Checking is \$21,875.
- The Check register, upcoming invoices and DNR reimbursement were reviewed
- Our Grant for Clean Boats/Clean Water monitoring will generate around \$2,800 later this year.

#### **2. Membership Report**

- We added several new members at the membership drive at Viewpoint. Current Membership continues to hover around 145 members.

#### **3. Lake Management Committee – Steve Johnson and Dan Maxwell**

- **APM Stakeholders Meeting.** On September 5, 2024, Steve Johnson and Dave Blumer led a meeting at the Spooner DNR building with various stakeholders to review our proposed 2025 Aquatic Plant Management Plan. In attendance from the MFA were: Harlan Johnson and Dan Maxwell (remote.) Representatives from two of the Tribal groups were present and a representative from GLIFWC (Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission) attended remotely. From the DNR: Pam Toshner and Craig Roberts. The overall feeling of the meeting was positive.
- Steve and Dan reported APM is still pending review.
- Since we met the November 15<sup>th</sup> grant filing deadline, we can only operate in good faith as though we will receive eventual approval from the DNR.

- The MFA (Lakes Committee) may need to apply for an extension of our 2023 APM in order to apply for permits in the summer of 2025.

## Old Business

### 1. DNR Grant Requests

- CBCW (Clean Boat Clean Water) generated \$2,800 in grant money.
- We do expect reimbursement from resubmitted volunteer hours of a previous grant. Dan will know more once he completes the additional paperwork documenting volunteer hours worked in 2024.
- Dave Blumer and Dan Maxwell will determine the apportionment of the Hours worked.
- Dan Maxwell also indicated we need someone new to moderate our 2025/2026 Grant Request which is due 01-01-25. Dan is willing to help train someone for the task.

### 2. Aquatic Invasives Species Management Plan

- Steve Johnson reported our required Fall Surveys have been completed for our Aquatic Plant Management Plan.
- We want to make our Flowage Eurasian Water Milfoil Weed (EWM) Bed Map (available this fall) and other reports available to view by MFA Members, but not the general public. Harlan indicated we could do this by providing a website link to the documentation to only members, but no navigation to the documents via website menus.
- We now have 228 acres of Eurasian Milfoil Bed on the Flowage, which is the second most we have had since 2009. (The Invasive Weed covered 115 Acres in 2022 and increased to 150 Acres in 2023)
- In the past, 200 Acres was the flashpoint where action has been taken by the DNR.
- Another Drawdown was discussed at the September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting with the DNR and the Tribes. Dan Maxwell explained that our observations illustrate that EWM is prevalent in depths as little as four feet or less, but after the last drawdown, EWM was found to be growing in 5 feet of water ... so EWM is spreading. Dan explained we wanted to try for a two-year grant, but we do not want to propose another drawdown because it was too soon and too indeterminate.
- Dave Blumer's Grant Application report will be ready by 11-15-24.

## New Business

### 1. APM Control Options for the next two years as suggested by Dave Blumer

- In the MFA's "toolbox" to control the amount and spread of invasive plant species
  - Manual Removal by MFA Members "Weed Pulling" along the shoreline, (Maybe a Milfoil Removal Party?)
  - Mechanical Harvesting. A Harvesting Machine and professional divers would be required. We would ask for a DNR grant of \$98,000, which requires a minimum contribution from the MFA of \$30,000.
  - Limited area application of approved herbicides
  - Lake Level drawdown during winter months

- Dave Blumer will close his business, “LEAPS” Lake Education & Plant Services in 2025. While he intends to assist the MFA for a period of time while our APM is pending, he will then end his relationship with the MFA. The MFA will need to identify someone similar with lake management expertise’ to assist our Board and Lake Management Committee.

## **2. Wake Boat Regulation – MTLC Report**

- It is important to note that the Minong Town Lakes Committee (a sanctioned, standing committee of the Town of Minong) is leading the efforts to gather information on wake boat affects on lakes. The MTLC was alerted to this Wisconsin grass-roots movement via an informal lake association network that has become more widely known in the area. State-wide towns have enacted ordinances to regulate the use of wake boats using their weighted-stern wave creating capability. The MTLC, with the help of other volunteers are in the throes of gathering overarching information, specific data, videos, examples of other town ordinances and other pertinent documentation. Updates will be disseminated from the MTLC to the supported lake associations to then provide to their respective members. The Minong Flowage Association is not leading this fact-finding effort, rather the Minong Flowage is one of the 8 lakes in Minong and 4 lakes in Wascott that will be impacted by any official actions of the Towns of Minong and Wascott.
- While legislators in Madison have taken no action on wake boat regulation for 2 years, the MFA Board initially supports research into regulation language adopted by numerous, neighboring towns. After reading many wake boat regulations and recommendations from all over the country, the Minong Flowage always lands squarely in the criteria of being too shallow to allow stern-weighted wake boating. And in areas where our lake may be just barely deep enough, the allowable distance to the shorelines is way too close. Various options for wake boat regulations are being vetted across the region. Still in a fact-finding stage, no decisions have been made. More details to be sent to the supported lake associations as it becomes available.
- Wake boat restrictions on area lakes is an upcoming agenda topic for both the Wascott and Minong Town Board meetings. Harlan Johnson and Steve Johnson, both representing the MTLC, will share the data gathered. It has been a steep learning curve to understand the pros and cons of the wake boat issue as well as discerning facts from social media misinformation. Probably in early 2025, MTLC will begin to solicit input at meetings and from the lake association members.
- The MTLC is receiving assistance from Last Wilderness Alliance, a non-profit organization devoted to the factual understanding of adverse wake boat affects on small acreage lakes and shallow lakes (less than 25’ deep). This initial proposal is not necessarily a total restriction on all wake boats, only a restriction when wake boats use their weighted-stern ballast to generate a deep wake, causing a very deep prop-wash (down to 25’) which destroys the plant life on the lake bottom of shallow lakes. Wake boats can be used on shallow lakes (without the weighted stern) to pull skiers and inflatables. A second, equally important concern is the huge volume of ballast water contained in the stern ballast tanks of wake boats. If the ballast tanks are filled with water from one lake with AIS, the boat owner transits to another lake without draining the ballast tanks completely, then fills and purges water from the tanks in the next lake, this action can easily spread invasive species. Looking for options to alleviate this problem as well.
- Dean Patrick from the Minong Town Board is now the liaison to the MTLC.

### **3. Financial Donations to MFA**

- Harlan indicated we should actively pursue tax deductible donations, like many other associations do, to augment revenue in our budget
- In July, Up North Resort, on Cranberry Lake, made a donation to the MFA.
- The Cranberry Lake Assoc forwarded a letter of support and a cash donation, with a caveat that during the next two years, their donation dollars would not be used for a lake level drawdown. Since a drawdown is not on the MFA's schedule for now, receiving the donation was appropriate.
- In July, Dave Marsh (Marsh's ViewPoint) made a donation to the MFA and subsidized the Summer Social at the Viewpoint as well.

### **4. 2025 MFA Member Activities and Fundraising**

- We will ask Zoe to generate draft of fundraising collateral, starting with a postcard. Postcards require less postage, and we'll still actively use our FB page and website.
- We added several new members at our first Summer Social at Marsh's View Point. We may ask Dave Marsh to reserve a Saturday in the summer of 2025 for another Membership Social. Dave also has a preliminary plan to host a one-day music festival.
- We will plan a couple more Ice Cream Boat cruises over the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend in 2025. Builds good rapport with lake property owners.
- We will explore a possible Meat Raffle at Seaman's in 2025.
- We will explore some type of Eurasian Milfoil Removal "after-party" next summer to thank all participants pulling weeds along their shoreline.

### **5. MFA Officer Positions**

- We still need to identify a Board member to fill our vacant Vice President position.
- Jim Sakara volunteered to take on the officer role of MFA Secretary. Harlan Johnson made a motion, unanimously approved. Jim Sakara will assume Secretary duties effective 11-2-24.

### **6. Other Topics and General Discussion**

- Dan suggested we do a "Stand Alone" email to MFA members to seek volunteers willing to help coordinate specific MFA summer activities. See if we can get more volunteers from our MFA community. It would be helpful if we illustrate how many hours each coordinator should be willing to contribute toward an activity along with responsibilities.
- Adrienne will explore more options for MFA logoed merchandise. We would like to develop an online "MFA Store," accessible by a link from our website. Sales of this merchandise will be probably be minimal, but may catch on with MFA members. Logoed merchandise can also be used for promotional gifts from the MFA.
- Harlan indicated he created a rough draft of a "Welcome" and "Get to Know the Lake" brochure designed to educate members, guests, and especially VRBO renters with boats. Brochure will include a lake map, location of restaurants, boat landings, no wake zones, shallow areas, and other hazards.
- Adrienne will share our 501c3 official document which we can use to avoid paying retail sales taxes when possible. Harlan will investigate how to initially use a copy of the document to register the MFA at specific (local) retail stores. On returning visits, show the card and the merchant will find the MFA in their database and subtract the sales tax off the purchase.

- Adrienne will investigate a Non-Profit Postage discount with the USPS
- Harlan will work with Becky to learn more about our use of Constant Contact for membership and for email campaigns.

**A motion was made to adjourn** the meeting by Harlan. Seconded by Adrienne. Vote: Unanimously approved at 11:55 am.

*Respectfully Submitted by Jim Sakara – MFA Secretary 01-30-25*

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## **Calendar**

- Next MFA Board Meeting: Saturday April 12, 2025, 9:00AM
- Next Minong Town Lakes Committee Meeting: Tentative date: Saturday April 26, 2025, 9:00AM
- MFA Annual Membership Meeting and BBQ lunch: Saturday June 7, 2025, **SAVE THE DATE**
  - Coffee & pastries at 9:00
  - Meeting starts at 9:30
  - Free BBQ Lunch at 11:15
- Board members are encouraged to attend a Town Meeting (Minong or Wascott) to see how the local government operates, meet the leaders, and show community interest from the MFA.
  - Wascott Town Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM at the Wascott Town Hall (in Wascott)
  - Minong Town Board meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, 6:00PM at the Minong Town Hall (Nancy Lake Rd)
  - When writing your name on the sign-in sheet, write MFA next to it please.
- Future MFA Board Meetings – Please reserve these dates on your calendar
  - April 12, 2025 MFA Board Meeting
  - July 12, 2025 MFA Board Meeting
  - October 11, 2025 MFA Board Meeting