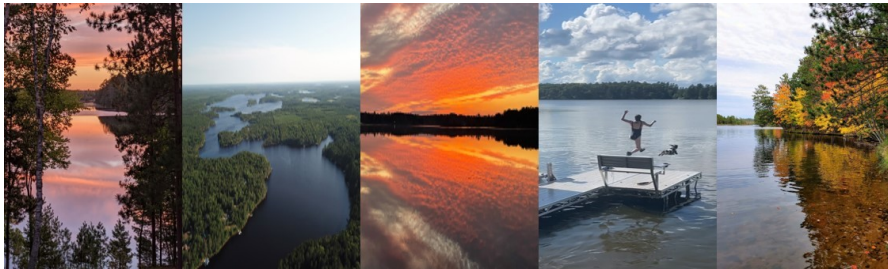


MINONG FLOWAGE ASSOCIATION



SPRING
2025
NEWSLETTER



From the President

Greetings Minong Flowage Association members and neighbors!

As we anticipate the upcoming summertime season on the lake, it's good to remember a few high points of the past year.

Membership in our association remains stable yet our Board is trying to increase it little by little. The June 2024 Membership Annual Meeting had one of the largest attendance records in recent memory with approximately 80 attendees. Thanks to all who were there and enjoyed a very informative presentation on the Flowage fish population given by Craig Roberts, DNR Sr. Fisheries Biologist. Let's try to beat that record at the June 7th, 2025 annual meeting!

DNR grant funding for lake management of the Flowage has been steady throughout the years with our lake management consultant and our Lake Management Committee leading the efforts. Our association submitted a new, extensive Aquatic Plant Management Plan to the DNR for 2025 – 2029. Although the detailed plan was approved, our grant applications for 2025 were all denied. This really leaves the MFA in a precarious position of the need to control invasive weeds but with minimal dollars to do so. If you are like many of us and want to preserve the water quality and value of our lake properties – please check your email box in the near future for a donation request from the MFA. We need your financial (tax deductible) gift in order to conduct lake management efforts this coming summer.

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From the President, *continued*

Many other activities and tasks (big and small) have been completed by the MFA Board members. To mention just a few: updated by-laws completed, voted on and approved by MFA membership; new communications campaign ready to roll out; MFA representation at Town Board meetings and area tourism organizations; and improved networking with other area lake associations. As an officer of the MFA, I want to thank the Board members, committee members, and other volunteers for accomplishing a great deal during the past year. Our association has been mentioned as an example of a well-run organization by the DNR, I've been told this in-person, and it's because of the commitment of many.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the annual meeting and BBQ lunch on June 7th.

Have a safe, fun, and relaxing summer at the lake!



Harlan Johnson
President - Minong Flowage Association
johnson2424@yahoo.com
612-817-4490



Harlan Johnson, MFA President

DNR's Healthy Lakes Program: Fish Sticks

by Dan Maxwell

The DNR's 'Fish Sticks' projects are an excellent means of restoring and maintaining high quality shoreline structure. They provide habitat for fish and plants as well as protection from wave-action-erosion along the shoreline following a very specific set of protocols. Permits are required.

Details can be reviewed at dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/fishing/outreach/fishsticks.

Over the course of the past few years, 4 fish sticks have been installed in the Minong Flowage. Three are along the southern shoreline of the south basin near the no-wake buoys of the dam channel. The fourth is located on the western shoreline just north of no-wake narrows that lead to the southern basin. When observed from the lake, they just look like some trees that fell in the water, which is precisely the point. Detailed studies have proven their worth in the Healthy Lakes program.

There are no additional fish sticks sites planned at this time. Anyone interested in adding one or more to their shoreline can contact me directly at dan.maxwell@comcast.net.



Lake Management Update

by Steve Johnson

The MFA submitted an Aquatic Plant Management Plan for 2024 to 2028 to the DNR last summer. The full plan can be found on the MFA website. In August a stakeholder meeting was held with representatives of the DNR and the Great Lake Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) present. The suggested changes were incorporated in the plan.

The MFA applied for a Surface Water Grant in the fall of 2024 for 2025/26 for purposes of managing the invasives species, primarily Eurasian Water Milfoil, found in the Minong Flowage. EWM has expanded significantly in the last two years and is now approaching amounts not seen since 2010/11. The grant application detailed plans for herbicide treatments, several types of manual removal, mechanical harvesting of EWM in select areas, plus various surveys and monitoring actions to assess where to take action, and the effectiveness of the control actions. The total two year project costs detailed in the grant request were about \$130,000, with the amount requested as grant funds amounting to \$99,000. In early February, the MFA was notified by the DNR that our grant request was not awarded. This is the first time the MFA has not received a grant we applied for.

The DNR has limited grant funds to award and receives hundreds of grant requests each year. Competition for grant funds is becoming increasingly intense and government funds at the state and federal level for lake management activities are not guaranteed to continue at previous levels. Our failure to receive a grant serves as a notice to the MFA that it needs to review the funding strategy for our lake management activities. Increased private funding of our lake management needs is going to be key to maintaining the quality of the Minong Flowage.

With no grant funds available, the MFA is having to significantly curtail this year's plans to control the expansion of EWM on the flowage. If funding is available, at a minimum, new EWM bed mapping surveys will be conducted to monitor the expansion of



Eurasian Water Milfoil

EWM and provide data for a grant application for 2026. Any EWM control action such as paid manual removal will be dependent upon receiving the appropriate DNR permits and sufficient private funds.

Good Neighbor tips

Minong Flowage Residents are known for:

- Keeping our lake and land beautiful: free from trash and other objects that detract from our pristine Northwoods experience.
- Being family-friendly: Keeping our language, our actions, and our gatherings ones that are enjoyable to all.
- Safety & Consideration: Cautiously driving at safe speeds on land and water.

Campfires and Fireworks Can Be Fun – and a Little Risky

- Keep an eye on dry or windy weather. Check the DNR signs in the area for fire danger levels.
- Carefully attending to and extinguishing all campfires.
- Launching fireworks into open areas far away from trees is very important. It only takes one spark.
- Some municipalities consider even bottle rockets and firecrackers to require a permit. Check with them first.



Membership Dues Increase

Our membership dues have always been very affordable and help to offset administrative costs to run our organization. We are limited on the annual amount we can charge for dues do to our 501(c)3 organizational status. At this time they cannot exceed \$50 per year, per membership.

At our annual meeting in June, 2023, the board received positive feedback and support from our members to increase dues in the future. We will be increasing annual dues to \$40 per year effective with renewals on June 1, 2025, while still offering a 5-year paid-in-full discount (5 years for \$160). Dues paid between May 1 and May 31 will be applied to the upcoming year. A reminder to members that our memberships run June 1 – May 31. If you have already paid in advance, you won't pay the increased amount until your next renewal.

Donations Gladly Accepted!

Members are also encouraged to donate beyond their dues to help offset loss of funding. After 15 years of continuous DNR funding we now face a daunting task because we have no guarantee we will receive DNR funds in the future.

Our Aquatic Plant Management (APM) plan for 2024 – 2028 is estimated to run nearly \$150,000. Ultimately, we need to rely on private funds to go forward with any lake management activities for several years.

In the past we have often seen private donations average \$100, which is always greatly appreciated. These funds will be directly applied to any of our lake management activities that maintain and improve the health of our lake.

Become a Founding Sponsor—New!

We now have an urgent and heartfelt proposition to members and non-members alike to become a sponsor. A sponsor is anyone who would like offer a donation of \$500 or more to the MFA, even if you aren't eligible to become member. This is a great way for visitors, business and members to further to support our organization's efforts to keep our lake clean and healthy.

When donating as a sponsor in our 2025-2026 year, we would like to show our appreciation for being one of our first official sponsors and recognize you as a Founding Sponsor. In doing so, you would receive a plaque that can be displayed anywhere you choose: on your dock or shoreline, mailbox, outside your business. Be creative! A sample will be available soon.

We've included our new Membership and Donation Form in our newsletter. You can also find a link at the top of our website at minongflowage.org to either pay online or print and mail.

Thank you for your continued support!

Good Neighbor tips

Keeping Noise Levels in Check

- It's surprising how much our voices amplify across the water and can also be louder on land than we realize for nearby neighbors.
- Please be especially mindful of voices and volume during the solitude times of mornings and evenings enjoyed by many on the Minong Flowage.

Water Safety & Access Updates

2025 Buoy Update

by Paul Gundersen



The 2025 boating season is upon us, and we want to inform you of some important updates regarding navigational safety on the Minong Flowage.

We have added some additional buoys to mark hazards. Specifically, the MFA will be installing four HAZARD buoys on the north end of the flowage, where the sunken island is located. As you may know, the hazard reaches further into the channel each year.

The Minong Flowage changes from season to season, and with the increase in traffic, these markers are essential for everyone's safety. If you encounter a shallow sandbar or stump, please notify someone on the MFA Board. Alternatively, you can place a milk carton or another floating device over the hazard to mark it.

We also ask that VRBOs and rental units inform their guests about the navigational hazards on the lake.

Let's all work together to have a great and safe boating season!

Aerial Photos from 2013 Drawdown showing the north area of the flowage where the sunken island is exposed, just south of Pogo's channel



Facing south



Facing north

Water Safety & Access Updates, *continued*

No Wake Zone Confusion

by Dan Maxwell

No Wake zone compliance confuses many people. By Wisconsin statute, watercraft must travel at No Wake speeds when traveling within 100 feet of a shoreline, dock, boat, swimmer, etc. and PWCs (Personal Watercraft) must do so when traveling within 200 feet. But most folks just don't know what 100 feet, or 200 feet, looks like when they are out on the water. Therefore, here are a couple of examples.

- When standing on the pier along the shore of Pogo's, the docks on the western side of that channel are about 200 feet away from you. Therefore, if you were in a boat in the middle, you would be 100 feet away from either dock.
- "The Narrows" that lead to the southern basin region have shorelines that are barely 300 feet apart at the northern edge and a little wider at the southern edge. Therefore, a single boat traveling down the center of The Narrows is about 150 feet from either shoreline and even closer to the docks. So, when two boats are approaching each other within that channel, they are much less than 100 feet from each other and from the shoreline. Thus, it is a No Wake situation.
- While you might be familiar with these No Wake situations, make sure your family, visitors or others unfamiliar with our lake understand what the setbacks are and how to judge those distances.
- The Minong Flowage Association has recently published a 'Points of Interest' map that also shows where these, and other, no-wake zones are around the flowage. This is something you may want to print and keep on hand and not just for no-wake zones! You will find the map in this newsletter and also on our website.



Happy boating!

Minong Town Lakes Committee Gains Traction

by Harlan Johnson

After jump-starting the Minong Town Lakes Committee (MTLC) in 2024, there has been a noticeable improvement in communication and networking amongst area lake communities. This oversight committee of eight of the largest lakes in the Town of Minong, including the Minong Flowage, has garnered an active, positive reputation for sharing lake management information, explaining DNR guidelines and addressing new, sometimes controversial, issues. In addition are requests from outside of our immediate area for consulting on organizational structure and funding.

The MTLC manages the Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) boat launch inspection program to stop the transfer of aquatic invasive plants from lake to lake. DNR grants were applied for and funding approved for the 2025 summer season. A new coordinator was brought on-board this season, Patrick Peterson, who trains and schedules the inspectors at the eight boat launches throughout the summer.

The MTLC was formed in 2008 as a standing, sanctioned committee of the Town of Minong Board tasked with leading lake management efforts for lakes within the borders of the Town of Minong. Find more information at minonglakes.org.



Legend

- ★ Buoy/No Wake
- ▲ Boat Landing
- ☀ Public Island
- ⊘ Private Island
- 😊 Bar/Restaurant
- 🛢 Stop-A-Sec Conv
- 🏕 County Campground
- 🌿 Swift Nature Camp
- Milfoil Areas to Avoid

Additional No Wake Zones

- 100 feet from all shorelines for all water craft
- 200 feet from all shorelines for PWC
- See Shoreline Map for more detail



Options to Protect your Lakefront from Eurasian Watermilfoil

by Jim Sakara

Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) continues to spread rapidly throughout our lake, threatening native plant life, water quality, and recreational use. This is likely to impact your property value. The good news? We *can* fight back—together. Any effort by our waterfront homeowners helps the whole lake. This year, we have an alternative solution to combat our invasive weed issue.

Since no state funding is coming to the MFA this year for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) removal, it is up to us to take matters into our own hands. Many will want to be proactive in dealing with the growth of EWM for their property. Some may wish to clear their lakefront from as much EWM as possible. Some may want to clear just their swimming area or a path to open water. Others may wish to remove cattails, bullrushes, or other emergent weeds to increase shoreline appeal and property value.

Given our DNR designation as a protected waterway, before doing any removal of weeds, especially those considered native or protected, it's best to check with the DNR for any limitations or permitting.

The MFA has been in contact with a few options that you might consider to be proactive in protecting our lake. One option is to support diver efforts to remove invasive milfoil. Unlike mechanical harvesting, hand-pulling weeds by their roots provides instant, highly effective treatment and prevention of unwanted lake weeds. Some of this includes the use of SCUBA divers.



Top: After EWM removal. Bottom: Before removal

You can work with a few organizations that might work for your scenario:

- **Holy Divers** quoted around \$750 per 1,000 square feet of weeds cleared. This price includes two weed removal visits: one to remove the bulk of weeds early in summer and another follow-up cleaning to clear any potential regrowth. Contact Dan at holydiversmn.com or 612-293-6056.
- **Aquatic Plant Management** does hand harvesting where four divers will work for \$2,200 for 8 hours. You can contact Nick at aquaticplantmanagement.com or 715-483.3269. He offers a hands-on approach to our battle with AIS in the Minong Flowage.

Here are other suggestions:

- **Work with your neighbors.** Form a package deal with one of these outfitters to help reduce the cost.
- **Spread awareness.** Talk to your neighbors about the importance of removing EMF and share this newsletter with your neighbor.
- **Volunteer or donate.** Support our program through donations or by helping coordinate logistics for the Divers. If you own a shoreline property near an infested area, consider allowing professional divers to access your dock or shoreline for immediate, chemical-free removal of weeds. This highly effective approach instantly restores beauty and functionality to your waterfront while helping reduce the spread of invasive species.
- **Check out the map** in our newsletter that shows the areas most recently affected to see where EWM is currently concentrated. If your property is near one of these hot spots, your support is *especially* valuable!

Together, we can protect the health, beauty, and functionality of our lake for generations to come.

Time for summertime fun!

Minong Flowage Association



2025 Annual Meeting & Summer Picnic

Saturday, June 7, 2025
Wascott Town Hall

Annual Meeting
9:00 – registration, coffee & pastries
9:30 – meeting call to order

Picnic immediately after
meeting is adjourned



Free
BBQ Picnic
for all meeting
attendees
burgers & brats
salads & beverage

Like to help out or have questions?
Contact us at minongflowage@gmail.com



Don't forget the Ice Cream Boat

We are bringing back the ice cream boat again over the 4th of July weekend, weather permitting of course.

Keep an eye out for the boat and gather your kiddos for a cold, tasty treat.

And if the mood hits you, we will also have a free-will donation box for those you want to contribute to keeping our lake clean and healthy.

See you around the 4th!





Winter fun on the flowage !



Final Tidbits from the Board

Help Wanted! - Board Member Election

There will be 2 Board position openings in June. We encourage all members in good-standing that have an interest in serving on the board to contact Harlan Johnson (see contact info on cover story) or any other board member prior to our annual meeting.

Serving on the board is an excellent way to learn more in-depth on how/why our Lake Management Plan is executed, how we work with area stakeholders, meet new people, and the list goes on. We meet on a quarterly basis, sometimes even remotely. Whether you are one the flowage part-time or year round, if you enjoy our lake community and would like to get involved to keep it well managed and maintained (and have some fun too) - we would love to hear from you.

Volunteerism

There are numerous ways to help out, whether it's an hour here or there with Clean Boats/Clean Waters, pitching in at our Annual Meeting, or doing an everyday (every weekend?) chore of pulling weeds or preserving the shoreline, it all adds up.

If you want to pitch in, even for a few hours here and there, we'd love to hear from you.

New Materials

We've been working hard to add a few tidbits for or members. In this issue you will find a new Points of Interest Map that we hope will be helpful.

We also took a nod from the Nancy Lake association and created some Good Neighbor Tips that we hope will be helpful reminders.

Feel free to print and share with your friends, family and neighbors.

BOARD ROSTER *effective 5-15-25*

President	Harlan Johnson	612-817-4490	johnson2424@yahoo.com	June 2025, mid 2nd term
Vice President	Becky White	612-325-2119	beckydwhite@hotmail.com	June 2025, start of 2nd term
Treasurer	Adrienne Banaszynski	612-384-6550	adrienne.banaszynski@gmail.com	June 2025, mid 3rd term
Secretary	Jim Sakara	612-978-1250	jim.sakara@gmail.com	June 2025, mid 1st term
Director-at-large	Dave Vogt			June 2025, mid 2nd term
Director-at-large	Paul Gundersen			June 2025, retiring
Director-at-large	Marcia Vogt			June 2025, end of 1st term
Director-at-large	Zoe Wisnoski			June 2025, mid 1st term
Director-at-large	open			
Board member terms are 2 years, up to 3 consecutive terms				