



MINONG FLOWAGE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 167 / Minong, WI 54859

minongflowage@gmail.com

Date: July 13, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Minong Town Hall

MFA Board Member Roster: Adrienne Banaszynski, Harlan Johnson, Steve Johnson, John Rozman, Jim Sakara, Karen Turnquist, Dave Vogt, Marcia Vogt, Zoe Wisnoski

Call to Order: Meeting was called to Order by Harlan Johnson at 9:00 AM.

Attendance:

- a. All Board Members were in attendance. Quorum achieved.
- b. Committee Chairpersons: Lake Mgmt. Committee. Steve Johnson, Dan Maxwell
- c. Guests. None

Agenda Change Requests. None

STANDING REPORTS

Treasurer's Report – Adrienne

- A new Treasurer will be needed by June of 2026 at the expiration of Adrienne's tenure on the board.
- Revenue and Expenses through 07-10-25:
 - Revenue of \$3,900 was comprised of \$1,400 in dues and \$2,500 from donations. Donations are earmarked for APM (Aquatic Plan Management)
 - Expenses for the period of \$1,231 were primarily for CBCW (Clean Boats Clean Waters) inspector expense of \$432, and \$700 to White Tail Waterworks for buoy installation.
 - Adrienne will forward additional financial details to the board.
- Current balance in the MFA checking account is \$37,244.
- Adrienne created a new form to be used for deposit details, including identifying funds received as donations earmarked for APM use.

Membership Report – Adrienne

- The current paid membership of the MFA (Minong Flowage Association) is 135.

MTLC (Minong Town Lakes Committee) - Harlan Johnson

- 2025 AIS boat inspections have, and will continue to occur for the remainder of the season. The Minong Flowage has one of eight landings that are funded by a DNR grant that flows through the Minong Town Lake Committee. The MFA pays for the Inspector at the DNR Landing and is reimbursed by the DNR grant. Day boater growth has seen exponential increases reflected by the number of launches. A tally of total launches by landing site will be published in September. Based on boat launch inspection numbers, the Minong Flowage is proving to be one of the busiest lakes in northwest Wisconsin. The DNR relies on the MFA's monitoring and inspections to assist in controlling the spread of EWM (Eurasian Water Milfoil).
- John Rozman volunteered to join the MTLC as our second representative on the committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Meeting – Harlan Johnson

- Our 2025 Annual Membership Meeting drew eighty-three attendees, representing sixty voting memberships.
- The Membership unanimously supported a Wake Enhancement Ordinance restricting the use of Wake Mode by Wake Boats on the Flowage. As requested, a letter was provided to both the Town of Wascott and the Town of Minong acknowledging the MFA has formally taken a stand supporting the Ordinance. A copy of the letter will be placed on our website.

Lake Management Committee Update – Steve Johnson and Dan Maxwell

- Lake Level Drawdown:
 - The MFA did not receive the MFA's requested 2025 grant application for a two-year control grant for herbicide treatments, professional manual removal and engaging an aquatic weed harvester service on a trial basis.
 - For multiple reasons we have deferred our efforts for a Drawdown in 2025:
 - Our APM plan states we need to exceed two hundred acres of EWM to qualify for a drawdown and in 2023 we mapped 160 acres so the DNR would question this. It is a safe assumption we will exceed two hundred acres in 2025. **Preliminary update from August 2025 Bed Mapping is approximately 257 Acres. The report will be on our website when it is complete.**
 - Washburn County, who owns the dam told us Renewable World Energies no longer manages the dam. Zero6 Energy is taking over dam management so the MFA is back at square one in developing a relationship with dam management to facilitate drawdowns

- Washburn County's Highway Department has a new dam policy regarding water level changes, including a drawdown. The new policy now requires the approval of governing townships, so therefore both Wascott and Minong must discuss, make a motion, and approve a water level changes, including a drawdown. We started the process with the Town of Wascott on July 1st. We will make the same request at the next meeting of the Town of Minong.
- At the Wascott Town meeting a Cranberry Lake representatives stated they had issues with drawdowns due to issues related to well levels, septic systems, and impact on trees.
- The DNR stated that the last drawdown permit was approved for five years. That permit has now expired. A subsequent drawdown permit will require a public hearing. With all the other activities mentioned above the DNR may reconsider the requirement.
- With the "resources on hand and the timing" involved there will be no drawdown this year.

- Lake Management Next Steps:

The MFA has scheduled EWM Bed Mapping in August with Matt Berg of Endangered Resource Services. The cost of mapping is approximately \$7,500.00 which will be paid this year via donations. Mapping involves five hundred points around the Flowage by boat.

The current APM plan includes forty-five acres of herbicide treatment, some manual SCUBA removal and possibly machine harvesting to allow for navigation. While the APM calls for herbicide treatment, any herbicide treatment requires a permit from the DNR.

In prior years the MFA has employed a professional lake biologist to assist with grant writing. Going forward the MFA will need to write grants itself or find a replacement for the prior lake biologist who recently retired. In the meantime, the MFA will amend last year's grant application. The preliminary grant application is due September 15th, and the final application is due November 15th. It is important to demonstrate to the DNR that the MFA is considering all lake management/AIS management methods and tools.

GLIFWC does not give its approval to any herbicide While the DNR has the ultimate herbicide authority, GLIFWC (Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife) also has input with the DNR relating to the MFA's APM Plan and Control Grant Application. treatment request in the ceded territories which includes the Minong Flowage. The Flowage has the sixth largest wild rice field in Wisconsin.

- Buoy Placement in the Narrows

The placement of waterway markers shall be subject to a permit authorized and issued by the DNR. The Minong Flowage Association shall be responsible for placing, maintaining, and removing authorized buoys in compliance with provisions set forth in said permit and DNR regulations.

With 7 votes in favor, John Rozman voting no and Jim Sakara abstaining, the board voted to be on record as supporting No Wake Buoy placement at the southern narrows for boater safety and shoreline preservation.

A member of the MFA is working on the permit process with the DNR, Towns of Minong and Wascott and assistance where needed from the MFA.

- **Wake Boat Ordinance:**

More than half our members attended the 2025 Annual Meeting in June. There was unanimous support from these members to adopt an ordinance restricting the use of Wake Mode by Wake Boats on the Flowage. We await the action of the Town Boards of Wascott and Minong.

A recent study has also shed more light to the subject. "How powerboats impact lakes below the surface", University of Minnesota Research Brief dated July 29, 2025. It can be found at www.twin-cities.umn.edu/news-events/how-powerboats-impact-lakes-below-surface. The link is also included in the email with these minutes.

CBCW (Clean Boats Clean Water) - Harlan

- The MFA pays, directly from MFA funds the CBCW boat inspector's salaries for inspection at the Washburn County Park and Boat Landing and typically is reimbursed by the DNR through the CBCW grant. However, the DNR reimbursement will not occur for 2025 as the DNR states it has no record of the grant application.
- Karen suggested the CBCW paperwork be forwarded to the Treasurer to track CBCW grant application and payment requests.
- Harlan agreed to write the CBCW grant this year.

NEW BUSINESS

Donation Campaign

Given the denial of the most recent grant request, it is very likely the MFA will need to self-fund some portion of surface water management costs as provided under its APM. The creation of a Donation Committee is being explored to develop and coordinate donations. Also discussed was the possibility of creating sponsorships as part of the fund-raising activities.

MFA Officer positions filled:

- President- Harlan Johnson
- Vice President- John Rozman

- Treasurer- Karen Turnquist
- Secretary- Jim Sakara

Committee Chairs Appointed:

- Membership – Karen Turnquist
- Lake Management – Steve Johnson
- Fundraising – Zoe Wisnoski
- Communications – Adriene Banaszynski
- CBCW – Jim Sakara
- Town Representatives – Marcia and Dave Vogt

Meeting adjourned by Harlan after verbal approval by all Board members

Submitted by Jim Sakara 08-05-25. Board approved 9-17-25.

MFA Board Standing Meeting Calendar

- Minong Town Board Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, 6:00pm at the Minong Town Hall (Nancy Lake Rd)
- When signing your name on the sign-in-sheet, write MFA next to it please.
- Future required Board Meetings – Please note these dates on your calendar.
 - October 11, 2025, MFA Board Meeting