

Instructions: Each applicant must submit to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) an *Authorizing Resolution* that is approved by the governing body of the organization and indicates which officers or employees of the organization are authorized to do the following:

1. Sign and submit the grant application
2. Sign the Agreement/Contract between applicant and the DNR
3. Submit required reports to the DNR to satisfy the Agreement/Contract (See Agreement/Contract for Requirement, if any)
4. Submit reimbursement request(s) to the DNR
5. Sign and submit other required documentation that maybe required for your specific project.

We strongly recommend that the applicant indicates the authorized person(s) by the title of position in the Authorizing Resolution, rather than by the name of the employee or officer. Employees have been known to retire or change jobs in the middle of a project, and, were this to happen, your resolution would be ineffective if it only lists the employee by name. If your organization requires that a person be named in an Authorizing Resolution, then the resolution should also include the title of position and contact information for the named individual.

Note: If applicant is required to submit a draft "intergovernmental agreement (IGA)" along with your agreement, an Authorizing Resolution is not a substitute for an IGA.

STANDARD AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, (*applicant*) Minong Flowage Association is interested in obtaining a cost-share grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the purpose of managing Eurasian watermilfoil (as described in the application);

WHEREAS, the respondent attests to the validity and veracity of the statements and representations contained in the application;


WHEREAS, an Agreement/Contract is required to carry out the project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that (*applicant*) _____ will meet the financial obligations necessary to fully and satisfactorily complete the project and hereby authorizes and empowers the following officials or employees to submit the following documents to the DNR for financial assistance that may be available:

Task	Title of Authorized Representative	Email address and phone number if alternative is used
Sign and submit application	Vice President	imrozman@yahoo.com / 612-867-6526
Enter into an Agreement/Contract with the DNR	President	iohnson2424@yahoo.com / 612-817-4490
Submit required reports to the DNR to satisfy	Pres/VP/AIS Cood.	sjj8549@gmail.com / 715-829-3686
Submit reimbursement request(s) to the DNR	Pres/VP/AIS Cood.	/
Sign and submit other documentation as necessary to complete the project per the	Pres/VP/AIS Cood.	/

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that respondent will comply with all local, state, and federal rules, regulations, and ordinances relating to this project and the cost-share Agreement/Contract.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by unanimous agreement at a legal meeting held on this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Authorized Signature  Date Nov. 13, 2025

Title Secretary

NOTE: The Authorized Signature and the Representative should not be the same person, unless minutes of the meeting where the resolution was adopted are attached.



Douglas County Sheriff's Office

1316 N. 14th Street • Suite 100 • Superior, Wisconsin 54880

November 13, 2025

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Surface Water Grant Program
DNRSurfaceWaterGrants@Wisconsin.gov

RE: Letter of Support for Minong Flowage Association 2026-28 AIS Management Project Grant Application

Dear DNR Grant Review Committee:

As Sheriff of Douglas County, I am writing to support the Minong Flowage Association's application for a DNR Control Grant to manage Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in the Minong Flowage from a public safety perspective.

Public Safety Concerns with Dense Aquatic Vegetation

In August 2017, a swimmer in Okanagan Lake, British Columbia, nearly drowned after becoming entangled in milfoil weeds approximately 30 feet from shore in 10-15 feet of water.¹

A death at Horseshoelake, Washington, in 2010 is attributed to tangling in milfoil.²

With 4,501 boat launches documented during just 46 days in 2025, the Minong Flowage sees heavy recreational use throughout the summer season. Dense EWM beds create multiple public safety concerns:

- **Swimming hazards:** Swimmers, particularly children and inexperienced swimmers, can become entangled in dense vegetation, leading to panic and potential drowning
- **Boating incidents:** Thick vegetation can foul boat propellers and motors, leaving boaters stranded and potentially requiring emergency response
- **Impaired rescue operations:** Dense aquatic vegetation complicates water rescue efforts by emergency responders, making it more difficult to reach people in distress
- **Reduced visibility:** Thick surface mats obscure underwater hazards and can hide swimmers or boaters in distress from would-be rescuers

Emergency Response Considerations

The Douglas County Sheriff's Office is responsible for water-based emergency response on the Minong Flowage along with our nearby partners in Washburn County and other jurisdictions. Dense invasive vegetation

¹ <https://kelownacapnews.com/2017/08/10/adversity-for-lake-milfoil-harvest/>

² <https://www.krem.com/article/news/local/milfoil-may-have-tangled-swimmer-who-drowned-in-horseshoe-lake/293-169463888>



Douglas County Sheriff's Office

1316 N. 14th Street • Suite 100 • Superior, Wisconsin 54880

complicates our ability to conduct effective rescue operations. Search and rescue efforts, body recovery operations, and routine water safety patrols all become more difficult and time-consuming in areas with heavy aquatic vegetation.

The complications and threat posed by EWM became glaringly evident during a search and rescue mission in the fall of 2023 in Serenity Bay on the Minong Flowage in Douglas County. Two canoeists capsized and drowned. The first victim was located in 7.5 feet of water, approximately 76 yards from shore, in "fairly heavy weeds" according to the report. The second victim was located in 5-6 feet of water approximately 36 yards from shore, in "very heavy weeds" and about 50 yards from victim 1. While the exact events that took place can only be presumed, based on the evidence, I feel that EWM was a contributing factor in the death of both victims. The body recovery operations took 18 days. It is a fact that EWM negatively affected our operations by limiting visibility, endangering our divers and wreaking havoc on our aquatic equipment. Family members of both victims stayed on scene for the entire search mission and EWM was a topic of conversation, as the main hinderance and delay of closure for the family, each of the 18 days it took to locate the bodies.

Effective management of EWM will improve public safety by reducing entanglement hazards, improving visibility for rescue operations, and ensuring that emergency responders can access all areas of the flowage quickly when responding to incidents.

From a public safety perspective, reducing dense aquatic vegetation in the Minong Flowage will make the lake safer for recreational users and easier for emergency responders to patrol and conduct rescue operations when needed.

Recommendation

The Douglas County Sheriff's Office supports this grant application as a public safety measure that will reduce hazards for the thousands of residents and visitors who use the Minong Flowage annually. State investment in invasive species management protects not only water quality and property values, but also the safety of people enjoying Wisconsin's public waters.

Sincerely,

Matt Izzard
Sheriff
Douglas County Sheriff's Office
1316 N 14th ST, #100
Superior, WI 54880
715-395-7541
izzardm@douglascountywi.gov

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of **Woodland Developments and Realty**, I am writing to express our full support for the Minong Flowage Association's initiative to combat the spread of **Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM)** and to restore the health of the Minong Flowage.

As a business deeply connected to the Minong area and its lakefront community, we see firsthand how the Flowage's water quality, natural beauty, and recreational opportunities directly impact local property values, tourism, and the overall vitality of our region. The lake is not only a defining feature of the Minong community—it is a key part of why people choose to live, invest, and vacation here.

We commend the MFA's proactive approach in developing a comprehensive, science-based management plan that includes herbicide application, mechanical harvesting, and community-led efforts. This work is essential to protecting our shared environmental and economic future.

Woodland Developments and Realty is proud to support your Wisconsin DNR Control Grant application and your broader mission to preserve the Minong Flowage for generations to come. We also pledge a financial contribution of **\$250** toward your EWM mitigation efforts this year.

Thank you for your leadership, transparency, and commitment to taking meaningful action. We look forward to continued collaboration and to seeing the positive outcomes that will come from this important work.

Sincerely,

Matt Albrecht

Broker/Owner

Woodland Developments and Realty



PO Box 141
Wascott, WI 54890
4seasonsrecclub@gmail.com

11/1/2025

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing to express our enthusiastic support for the grant application submitted by the Minong Flowage Association (MFA) aimed at combating the proliferation of aquatic invasive species (AIS) in our local waterways.

The natural beauty and recreational opportunities that our community's water bodies offer are an integral part of what makes our region so special. Our club has witnessed the increasing challenge posed by AIS on the very lakes and rivers that our members and visitors hold dear. AIS not only jeopardizes the ecological balance but also hinders the enjoyment of water-based activities for all who cherish the great outdoors.

The MFA has consistently demonstrated dedication and expertise in addressing the issue of AIS, and their proactive approach to AIS management aligns with our club's mission to promote responsible and enjoyable outdoor experiences.

We believe that supporting the MFA's grant application is a pivotal step towards securing the health and vitality of our local waterways. The successful management of AIS is paramount to ensuring that our water-based recreational activities remain accessible and enjoyable for generations to come.

We have donated \$250 to the MFA in support of these efforts.

Thank you for your dedication to the protection of our cherished natural resources and for considering our endorsement of the MFA's grant application.

Best Regards,

4 Seasons Recreational Club
Wascott, WI

11/04/2025

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Surface Water Grant Program
DNRSurfaceWaterGrants@Wisconsin.gov

**RE: Letter of Support for Minong Flowage Association 2026-28 AIS Management
Project Grant Application**

Dear DNR Grant Review Committee:

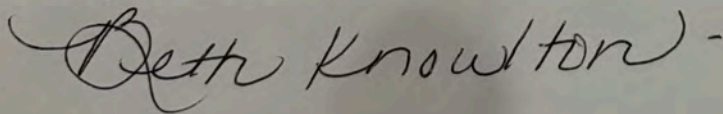
Bootlegger's, a local bar and grill, strongly supports the Minong Flowage Association's application for a DNR Control Grant to manage Eurasian Water Milfoil in the Minong Flowage.

Our business depends directly on tourism driven by the Minong Flowage. Over 50% of our annual revenue comes from visitors who vacation in and around the flowage — whether they own property on the lake, rent for the weekend, come to enjoy boating in the summer, or snowmobile in the winter. The Minong Flowage is the anchor attraction that brings people to our area and supports local businesses like ours throughout the year.

The milfoil threatens the recreational quality that makes the Minong Flowage a destination. If water quality declines, swimming becomes unpleasant, and boating access is impaired, fewer visitors will come — and local businesses will suffer the economic consequences.

Bootlegger's is contributing \$600 supporting, MFA's invasive species management efforts. We are committed to protecting the resource that drives tourism to our area.

Sincerely,



Beth Knowlton
Owner, Bootlegger's
16310 South Hwy 53, Wascott, WI 54890
Phone 715-466-5554 Email bootleggersbeth@gmail.com



DOUGLAS COUNTY

BOARD CHAIR

Mark E. Liebaert

1316 N. 14th Street • Suite 301

Superior, WI 54880

(715) 395-1493 Home (715) 398-5234 Fax (715) 395-1312

DOUGLAS COUNTY MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Douglas County is to provide cost-effective services, with equal access to all citizens; to continue and enhance partnerships; to responsibly manage our resources and plan for the future.

November 5, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) is threatening the Minong Flowage in Douglas County. This invasive species will continue to degrade water quality, hamper navigation, reduce property values, and diminish recreational experience without immediate action.

The Minong Flowage Association has led the way to combat EWM by developing a 3-year management plan to incorporate herbicide application, mechanical harvesting, manual removal, and other means to address the invasive species. Over \$20,000 has been raised since June 2025 to help combat the issue.

The Minong Flowage generates substantial economic value to Douglas County and its residents. The lake's health is directly tied to regional economic vitality.

This letter is in support of the Minong Flowage Association's efforts to combat EWM, to continue to preserve our county's natural resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark E. Liebaert", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark E. Liebaert



November 5, 2025

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Surface Water Grant Program
DNRSurfaceWaterGrants@Wisconsin.gov

RE: Letter of Support for Minong Flowage Association 2026-28 AIS Management Project Grant Application

Dear DNR Grant Review Committee:

On behalf of Seaman's Resort, we are writing to express our strong support for the Minong Flowage Association's application for a DNR Control Grant to manage Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in the Minong Flowage.

For ten years, we have owned and operated Seaman's Resort on the shores of the Minong Flowage in Wascott, Wisconsin. Our lakeside establishment serves as a central gathering place for the community – a place where property owners, weekend visitors, and day boaters come together to enjoy everything that makes this lake special. From our vantage point at the heart of lake activity, we witness firsthand the vitality of the Minong Flowage and the strong sense of community it creates.

The Lake is Our Livelihood and Our Community

Seaman's Resort depends entirely on the health of the Minong Flowage. Our bar and RV campsites attract thousands of visitors each season who come to enjoy clean water, excellent fishing, and the natural beauty that defines this region. When the lake thrives, our business thrives. When the lake suffers, we all suffer.

But our commitment to the Minong Flowage goes beyond business considerations. Over the past decade, we've watched this community grow and strengthen around a shared love for this water resource. The people who gather at Seaman's each weekend –

whether they're longtime property owners or first-time visitors — share a common appreciation for what makes this place unique. They care about protecting it for future generations.

The Threat We All Face

The recent expansion of EWM to 257 acres — the worst infestation since before 2014 — threatens everything we've built here. We see it in our waters. We hear concerns from our customers. We understand the urgency.

Without aggressive management action, EWM will:

- Degrade the swimming and boating experience that draws people to the lake
- Reduce fishing quality and access
- Diminish the natural beauty that makes the Minong Flowage a destination
- Discourage visitors from returning
- Undermine the economic vitality of local businesses like ours that depend on lake tourism

With 4,501 boat launches documented during just 46 days in 2025 under the Clean Boats Clean Waters initiative, the Minong Flowage remains a heavily used and beloved recreational resource. This strong demand makes effective invasive species management even more critical — and more urgent.

Our Commitment to Action

The MFA's comprehensive three-year management plan represents the aggressive, multi-faceted approach we need. Their integration of herbicide application, mechanical harvesting, manual removal, and other available means — backed by strong community engagement and renewed leadership — gives us confidence that this organization is ready to tackle the challenge ahead.

Seaman's Resort is committed to supporting the MFA's efforts in multiple ways:

1. **Financial Contribution:** We are contributing \$500 to the MFA's invasive species management fund, demonstrating our confidence in their plan and our commitment to protecting our shared resource.
2. **Community Partnership:** We are offering Seaman's Resort as a venue for MFA fundraising events. As a central gathering place with strong weekend traffic, we

can help the MFA reach property owners, visitors, and supporters to build the long-term funding needed to combat EWM beyond state grant cycles.

3. **Education and Stewardship:** We are committed to promoting clean boating practices and responsible lake stewardship among the large audience we serve. Through our daily interactions with hundreds of lake users, we can help spread awareness about invasive species prevention and the importance of supporting the MFA's management efforts.

A Long-Term Partnership

We recognize that protecting the Minong Flowage requires sustained effort and broad community support. State grant funding is essential, but the fight against invasive species doesn't end when grant cycles expire. That's why we're committed to partnering with the MFA not just today, but in the years ahead – helping raise funds, educate lake users, and build the long-term community engagement needed to keep this lake healthy.

As business owners who have spent a decade serving this community, we see the MFA's grant application as more than just a funding request. It's a commitment to the future – to preserving the water quality, recreational opportunities, and sense of place that make the Minong Flowage irreplaceable.

We strongly urge the DNR to approve this grant application. The MFA has demonstrated serious commitment through comprehensive planning, significant member fundraising, and renewed leadership. They have the community support, the scientific approach, and the determination needed to succeed. State investment in this project is an investment in the economic and environmental health of northwest Wisconsin.

The Minong Flowage community is ready to fight for our lake. We're asking the DNR to join us.

Sincerely,

Julie and Dave Trygstad
Owners, Seaman's Resort
Wascott, Wisconsin
16666 S Flowage Rd, Gordon, WI 54838

November 6, 2025

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Surface Water Grant Program
DNRSurfaceWaterGrants@Wisconsin.gov

RE: Letter of Support for Minong Flowage Association 2026-28 AIS Management Project Grant Application

Dear DNR Grant Review Committee:

On behalf of the Whitefish Lake Conservation Organization (WILCO), I am writing to express our strong support for the Minong Flowage Association's application for a DNR Control Grant to manage Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in the Minong Flowage.

The Whitefish Lake Association represents property owners and stakeholders on Whitefish Lake in Douglas County. We understand firsthand the challenges that aquatic invasive species pose to lake health, property values, and recreational enjoyment. Eurasian Water Milfoil was recently discovered in Whitefish Lake this fall, making the threat immediate and personal for our membership.

The interconnected nature of our region's lakes and waterways means that effective invasive species management on one lake benefits the entire area. The Minong Flowage's proximity to our lake, combined with the high volume of boat traffic moving between regional water bodies, makes the MFA's management success critical to our own prevention and containment efforts.

We are particularly concerned about the recent bed mapping survey showing EWM expansion to 257 acres in the Minong Flowage – the worst infestation recorded since before 2014. The 4,501 boat inspections documented during just 46 days in 2025 demonstrate the heavy recreational use and corresponding risk of invasive species spread throughout our region.

The MFA's comprehensive three-year management plan represents exactly the kind of aggressive, multi-faceted approach needed to address a rapidly expanding EWM infestation.

As a neighboring lake association also confronting aquatic invasive species challenges, we recognize the importance of regional cooperation and shared commitment to protecting our water resources. The MFA's success in controlling EWM will:

- Reduce the source population of EWM that could spread to other lakes
- Demonstrate effective management strategies that other associations can adapt
- Help maintain the recreational and economic value of the entire region's lakes
- Protect the water quality and ecological health of our interconnected watershed

Wilco is committing \$1,000 in financial support to the MFA's invasive species management efforts to demonstrate our confidence in their approach and our recognition of the urgent need for action.

The WILCO strongly urges the DNR to approve this grant application. The MFA has demonstrated serious commitment through new leadership, comprehensive planning, and significant member fundraising. State support for this project is an investment not just in the Minong Flowage, but in the broader health of northwest Wisconsin's lake resources.

We stand ready to learn from the MFA's management efforts and to cooperate on regional invasive species prevention and control initiatives that benefit all area lakes.

Sincerely,



Dave Neubauer, President
Whitefish Conservation Organization, Inc.
P.O. Box 232
402-709-4257

Office: (715) 466-4441
Toll Free: (800) 777-5584

PO Box 35
Minong, WI 54859

www.lakewoods.net



Letter of Support - Lakewoods Real Estate

November 9, 2025

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Surface Water Grant Program
DNRSurfaceWaterGrants@Wisconsin.gov

RE: Letter of Support for Minong Flowage Association 2026-28 AIS Management Project Grant Application

Dear DNR Grant Review Committee:

On behalf of Lakewoods Real Estate, I am writing to express our strong support for the Minong Flowage Association's application for a DNR Control Grant to manage Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in the Minong Flowage.

As a real estate brokerage serving the Minong Flowage area, we have a unique perspective on the direct connection between lake health and property values. The health of the Minong Flowage is vital to maintaining the natural beauty and recreational opportunities that make our area desirable to homeowners, visitors, and investors alike. A clean and thriving flowage directly supports strong property values and continued demand for waterfront and nearby real estate.

The Economic Impact of Lake Health

The Minong Flowage is a cornerstone of the local economy. Nearly 400 property owners have direct lake access, generating substantial tax revenue for Douglas and Washburn Counties and the towns of Wascott and Minong. Additionally, approximately 400 RV campsites in Douglas County and Washburn County's popular 105-site park bring thousands of visitors annually, supporting local businesses ranging from restaurants and gas stations to hardware stores and service providers.

As real estate professionals, we regularly see how lake conditions influence buyer decisions and property valuations. Clean, accessible water with good recreational quality commands premium prices. Conversely, lakes with visible invasive species problems, navigation difficulties, and degraded water quality experience declining interest from buyers and reduced property values.

The Urgency of the Current Threat

The recent bed mapping survey revealing EWM expansion to 257 acres – the worst infestation since before 2014 – represents a serious threat to property values and economic vitality in our market area. Without aggressive management action, this invasive species will continue to:

- Reduce waterfront property values as swimming, boating, and fishing quality decline
- Discourage new buyers from investing in the area
- Diminish the appeal of the Minong Flowage as a recreational destination
- Reduce visitor spending at local businesses
- Undermine the tax base that supports county and municipal services

At the same time, Clean Boat Clean Water inspections documented 4,501 boat launches over just 46 days in 2025, demonstrating that demand for recreational access remains high. This presents both an opportunity and a challenge: strong current interest in the lake that must be protected through effective invasive species management.

Why We Support This Grant Application

The MFA's comprehensive three-year management plan represents exactly the kind of aggressive, well-planned approach needed to address a rapidly expanding problem. Their integration of herbicide application, mechanical harvesting, manual removal, and winter drawdown – backed by robust monitoring and community engagement – provides the best opportunity to restore the Minong Flowage to a condition that supports healthy property values and continued economic growth.


We are particularly impressed by the MFA's renewed leadership, significant member fundraising (over \$20,000 raised since June 2025), and commitment to transparent, science-based management. This is an organization taking decisive action with broad community support.

Our Commitment

As a local real estate sales company, we recognize that protecting this valuable resource is essential not only to the success of our business but also to the long-term economic vitality of our community. **Lakewoods Real Estate is contributing \$500 to support the MFA's invasive species management efforts,** demonstrating our confidence in their approach and our commitment to preserving the asset that makes our market area attractive to buyers and investors.

We strongly urge the DNR to approve this grant application. The economic health of the Minong Flowage area depends on maintaining the recreational quality and natural beauty that draws people to this region. State investment in EWM management is an investment in property values, tax revenue, and the broader economic vitality of northwest Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

9811DDB370B54D9...

11/9/2025

Kevin Brisky - Broker
Lakewoods Real Estate
Licensed in Wisconsin

875 W Hokah St, Minong, WI

kevin@lakewoods.net

715-466-4441

11/10/25

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Surface Water Grant Program
DNRSurfaceWaterGrants@Wisconsin.gov

Dear DNR Grant Review Committee:

Link Recreational strongly supports the Minong Flowage Association's application for a DNR Control Grant to manage Eurasian Water Milfoil in the Minong Flowage.

As a retail boat dealership in the Minong Flowage area, a significant portion of our revenue comes from visitors attracted to the lake's recreational opportunities. The expansion of EWM to 257 acres threatens the tourism that supports local businesses like ours.

The MFA's comprehensive three-year management plan incorporates proven strategies including herbicide application, mechanical harvesting, manual removal, and winter drawdown. With over \$20,000 already raised from members and strong community support, the MFA has demonstrated the commitment and capacity to manage this project effectively. We urge the DNR to approve this grant application. Protecting the Minong Flowage protects the economic vitality and recreational quality of life throughout northwest Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Jon Wallace
Owner
Link Recreational
304 Business Hwy 53 Minong, WI 54859
715-466-2272
jonwallace@linkrec.com

Minong Town Lakes Committee



W7095 Nancy Lake Road, Minong, WI 54859

A sanctioned committee of the Town of Minong, Wisconsin with an overall objective to promote communication, convey important lake management information and encourage networking between eight lakes within the boundaries of the Town of Minong: Big Bass, Gilmore, Horseshoe, Kimball, Minong Flowage, Nancy, Pokegama, Sand

Regarding:
Letter of support for the Minong Flowage Association

Officers:
Harlan Johnson
Richard Johnson
Terry Flaherty

President
VP & Treasurer
Secretary

November 10, 2025

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Surface Water Grant Program
DNRSurfaceWaterGrants@Wisconsin.gov

RE: Letter of Support for Minong Flowage Association 2026-28 AIS Management Project Grant Application

Dear DNR Grant Review Committee:

The Minong Town Lakes Committee (MTLC), a lake management advisory and networking organization, strongly supports the Minong Flowage Association's (MFA) application for a DNR Control Grant to manage invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in the Minong Flowage. The Minong Flowage is one of the eight area lakes supported by the MTLC.

MTLC officers and member representatives of the supported area lakes, all stand behind MFA's serious need for grant funding in 2026. Their APM plan is very comprehensive and held up as an excellent example for other lakes needing to generate an APM. Our committee is very aware of MFA's struggle with EWM control and the limitations put upon their association. The Minong Flowage, being the largest of the area lakes and having the worst explosion of EWM in recent memory, alarms the seven other lakes within our organization. Several of our supported lakes have some EWM and some do not. But the obvious threat of EWM spread from the popular Minong Flowage looms large.

The MTLC absolutely urges the DNR to approve this grant application. Protecting the Minong Flowage protects the other seven lakes within our organization as well. DNR grant funding for AIS control is a critical need for 2026 and beyond.

Sincerely,

MTLC Officers: Harlan Johnson, Richard Johnson, Terry Flaherty
www.minonglakes.org



Town of Wascott

P.O. BOX 159
WASCOTT, WISCONSIN 54890-0159
PHONE: (715) 466-4252
Email: townofwascott@gmail.com

November 10, 2025

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Surface Water Grant Program
DNRSurfaceWaterGrants@Wisconsin.gov

RE: Letter of Support for Minong Flowage Association 2026-28 AIS Management Project Grant Application

Dear DNR Grant Review Committee:

On behalf of the Town of Wascott, I am writing to express strong support for the Minong Flowage Association's application for a DNR Control Grant to manage Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in the Minong Flowage.

The Minong Flowage's Importance to the Town of Wascott

The Minong Flowage is a cornerstone of the Town of Wascott's identity, economy, and quality of life. This 1,587-acre water body generates substantial property tax revenue for the town through nearly 400 lakefront and near-lake properties. These properties support our town's ability to maintain roads, provide emergency services, and deliver the basic municipal services our residents depend on.

Beyond direct tax revenue, the flowage drives significant economic activity throughout our community. Businesses operating on or near the flowage—including marinas, restaurants, resorts, and campgrounds—employ town residents and generate economic activity that benefits our entire municipality. The thousands of visitors who come to the Minong Flowage each year support these businesses and contribute to the economic vitality that makes the Town of Wascott viable.

The flowage also provides essential recreational opportunities for our residents. Public access points maintained through cooperative efforts between the town, county, and state allow residents to enjoy fishing, boating, swimming, and wildlife viewing—activities that enhance the livability of our community and help attract new residents and businesses to the area.

The Threat of Eurasian Water Milfoil

The recent expansion of EWM to 257 acres—the worst infestation since before 2014—poses a serious threat to the Town of Wascott's economic and fiscal health. We are already hearing concerns from property owners and business operators about declining water quality, impaired recreational access, and the visible degradation of the flowage.

If EWM continues to expand unchecked, the Town of Wascott faces multiple negative consequences:

- **Declining property values:** Lakes with severe invasive species problems experience declining property values, which reduces tax assessments and the revenue available to fund town services
- **Economic decline:** Reduced tourism and business activity means fewer jobs for town residents and less economic activity supporting our local economy
- **Reduced quality of life:** Town residents will lose access to a recreational resource that has defined our community for generations
- **Increased service demands:** Property owners may require additional town services or support as they deal with the impacts of invasive species on their properties

With 4,501 boat launches documented during just 46 days in 2025, the Minong Flowage remains one of the most heavily used recreational resources in our region. This level of activity demonstrates both the value placed on the flowage and the urgency of protecting it through effective invasive species management.

Why the Town of Wascott Supports This Grant Application

From a municipal government perspective, the MFA's grant application represents a well-planned, scientifically sound approach to addressing a serious problem affecting town interests. The MFA has demonstrated the kind of community leadership and commitment that makes grant-funded projects successful:

- **Comprehensive management plan:** The three-year plan incorporates multiple proven control methods including herbicide application, mechanical harvesting, and manual removal—a multi-faceted approach appropriate for a complex invasive species problem
- **Substantial private fundraising:** Over \$20,000 raised from MFA members since June 2025 demonstrates strong community investment in protecting the flowage
- **Professional approach:** Engagement with DNR biologists, procurement of necessary permits, and evidence-based decision-making show the MFA's capacity to manage a complex, multi-year project
- **Broad community support:** Letters of support from businesses, property owners, neighboring lake associations, and local officials demonstrate community-wide recognition of the problem's urgency

The Value of State-Local Partnership

As a town official, I understand the fiscal pressures facing small municipalities in Wisconsin. The Town of Wascott, like towns throughout the state, must deliver essential services with limited resources. State grant programs that address problems affecting municipal interests—without requiring town matching funds—are valuable tools for protecting the tax base and quality of life that sustain our communities.

The DNR Control Grant program exists for situations like this: a serious invasive species problem threatening a significant water resource, with an organized local group prepared to lead management efforts and contribute substantial private resources. State investment in the MFA's plan protects the Town of Wascott's tax base, supports local businesses, and preserves recreational opportunities for residents throughout the region.

Recommendation

The Town of Wascott strongly urges the DNR to approve this grant application. The Minong Flowage is a critical asset for our municipality, generating tax revenue that funds town services and supporting economic activity that provides jobs for town residents. The MFA has developed a sound management plan, demonstrated strong community support, and committed significant private resources to addressing the EWM problem.

Effective invasive species management is not just an environmental issue—it is sound municipal policy that protects property values, supports local businesses, and maintains the tax base that funds essential town services. This grant application deserves approval as a strategic investment in the Town of Wascott's fiscal health and our residents' quality of life.

Sincerely,

Chuck Youngquist, Chair
Wascott Town Board
PO Box 159, Wascott, WI 54890
Email: townofwascott@gmail.com
Phone: 715-466-4252



WASHBURN COUNTY

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

1760 Roundhouse Road • Spooner, WI 54870
(715) 635-4490 • Fax (715) 388-7947

November 11, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this as a letter of support for the Minong Flowage Association's efforts in securing grants for lake management and planning as well as Eurasian Milfoil control efforts. Washburn County has partnered with the Minong Flowage Association since they began treating milfoil in 2008. We also support their efforts with through boat launch fees at our campground. These funds are dispersed directly to their association annually. This financial contribution is intended to assist with milfoil treatment.

We hope that you will give them full consideration for any and all grant programs that may be available as well as all viable treatment options. Their approach to the difficult issue of aquatic invasive species is a model of professionalism and an example of how a non-profit group and local unit of government can partner effectively.

Please give them all due consideration as they apply for grants in 2025/2026 and in the future.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Peterson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Peterson
Washburn County Forest Administrator



470 West 78th St., Suite 250, Chanhassen, MN 55317 Ph: (952)923-1187

November 11, 2025

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Surface Water Grant Program
DNRSurfaceWaterGrants@Wisconsin.gov

**Letter of Support for Minong Flowage Association 2026-28
AIS Management Project Grant Application**

Dear DNR Grant Review Committee:

Zero6 Energy Hydro Operations, LLC strongly supports the Minong Flowage Association's application for a DNR Control Grant to manage Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in the Minong Flowage. As the operator of the dam that impounds the Minong Flowage on behalf of Washburn County, we have both operational responsibility for this water resource and a deep commitment to its long-term environmental health.

Winter drawdown is a critical tool for EWM control, and we recognize that implementing drawdown operations involves operational trade-offs. When the flowage is drawn down to expose EWM beds to winter conditions, hydroelectric generation is reduced during that period. However, the long-term benefit to lake health—and therefore to the sustainability of the overall resource—justifies this short-term operational adjustment.

Zero6 Energy Hydro is contributing approximately \$3,000 in value to support the MFA's invasive species management efforts. This contribution represents our commitment to discount the costs the MFA would otherwise incur for lost power generation during drawdown operations required for EWM management **by ten percent**. While the exact timing and duration of future drawdowns depends on WDNR permits and stakeholder approval, we are committed to working cooperatively with the MFA and accepting the operational impacts necessary for effective lake management.

We strongly urge the DNR to approve this grant application. The Minong Flowage Association has demonstrated the planning, community support, and commitment needed to succeed. State investment in this project will protect a valuable water resource, support a regional economy, and demonstrate that renewable energy operations and environmental stewardship can advance together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Brand", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

John Brand
Chief Financial Officer
Zero6 Energy Hydro Operations, LLC

11/13/2025

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Surface Water Grant Program
DNRSurfaceWaterGrants@Wisconsin.gov

RE: Letter of Support for Minong Flowage Association 2026-28 AIS Management Project Grant Application

Dear DNR Grant Review Committee:

As a real estate professional specializing in lakefront and recreational properties through Dane Arthur Real Estate Agency and LakePlace.com, I strongly support the Minong Flowage Association's application for a DNR Control Grant to manage Eurasian Water Milfoil in the Minong Flowage.

Lake Health Drives Property Values

In my experience marketing and selling properties in the Minong Flowage area, I've seen firsthand how water quality directly impacts buyer interest and property valuations. Clean, accessible water with good fishing and boating conditions commands premium prices. Lakes with visible invasive species problems, navigation difficulties, and declining water quality experience reduced buyer interest and lower sale prices.

The recent expansion of EWM to 257 acres—the worst infestation since before 2014—represents a serious threat to property values throughout the Minong Flowage area. Prospective buyers research lake conditions before making offers. If EWM continues to degrade water quality and recreational access, buyer demand will decline, inventory will increase, and property values will suffer accordingly.

The Regional Economic Impact

The Minong Flowage is a cornerstone of the regional real estate market. Nearly 400 property owners have direct lake access, and hundreds more own properties within proximity to the flowage. These properties generate substantial tax revenue for Douglas and Washburn Counties and support a tourism economy that employs local residents year-round.

Beyond residential real estate, the flowage supports commercial properties including marinas, restaurants, resorts, and campgrounds—businesses that depend entirely on the lake's recreational quality to attract customers. When lake health declines, the entire regional real estate market suffers: residential values drop, commercial properties become harder to sell, and the economic activity that makes the area attractive to buyers diminishes.

Why This Grant Application Matters

The MFA's comprehensive three-year management plan incorporates proven strategies including herbicide application, mechanical harvesting, manual removal, and winter drawdown. With over \$20,000 already raised from members and strong community support from businesses, local government, and neighboring lake associations, the MFA has demonstrated the commitment and capacity to manage this project effectively.

State grant funding is essential to making this comprehensive approach financially viable. The DNR's investment will protect property values, support the regional real estate market, and preserve the recreational quality that makes the Minong Flowage area an attractive place to own property.

I am contributing \$250.00 to support the MFA's invasive species management efforts, demonstrating my confidence in their plan and my commitment to protecting the market that sustains my business.

I strongly urge the DNR to approve this grant application. Protecting lake health is protecting property values, and protecting property values protects the tax base and economic vitality of northwest Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Ron Walters
Dane Arthur Real Estate Agency
LakePlace.com
715-558-0363
Ron@lakeplace.com



LAKE COUNTRY LUMBER

400 5TH Ave E. Minong, WI 54859

715-466-2164

www.LCLumber.com

November 14, 2025

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Surface Water Grant Program
DNRSurfaceWaterGrants@Wisconsin.gov

**RE: Letter of Support for Minong Flowage Association 2026-28 AIS Management
Project Grant Application**

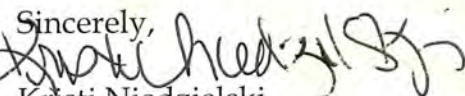
Dear DNR Grant Review Committee:

Lake Country Lumber in Minong Wisconsin strongly supports the Minong Flowage Association's (MFA) application for a DNR Control Grant to manage invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in the Minong Flowage.

As a building supply store nearby the Minong Flowage, a significant portion of our revenue comes from residents and visitors attracted to the lake's recreational opportunities. It surprises me that EWM has spread to 257 acres of the Flowage waters. In the summer of 2025 - boating, fishing and other water-related activities were already compromised by the thick weed beds and this will continue to get worse and threaten the tourism that supports local businesses like ours.

The MFA has been a proactive, well-run organization in our community for many years. One of our customers happens to be the MFA President - Harlan Johnson. In getting to know Harlan, I know he has the common-sense leadership capabilities to lead their association board, using DNR funding, to control the invasive weeds and maintain both the quality of the lake waters and of the community we've come to expect. In my opinion, the MFA has shown the commitment and capacity to use DNR funding effectively for a positive result.

We urge the DNR to approve this grant application. Protecting the Minong Flowage protects the economic vitality and recreational quality of life throughout northwest Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Kristi Niedzielski
Store Manager
Lake Country Lumber

November 15, 2025

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Surface Water Grant Program
DNRSurfaceWaterGrants@Wisconsin.gov

RE: Letter of Support for Minong Flowage Association 2026-28 AIS Management Project Grant Application

Dear DNR Grant Review Committee:

Pogo's Harbor Inn – a bar, restaurant, and marina operating directly on the Minong Flowage at 7194 County Road T in Wascott, Wisconsin – strongly supports the Minong Flowage Association's application for a DNR Control Grant to manage Eurasian Water Milfoil.

Understanding the Power of Grant Funding

I know firsthand the transformative impact that well-executed grant applications can have on local infrastructure and economic development. About two decades ago, I was instrumental in helping secure federal grant funding to replace a deteriorated culvert on County Road T with a proper bridge structure. That project opened reliable navigation access between the Minong Flowage and Cranberry Lake – creating a continuous waterway that dramatically enhanced recreational boating opportunities throughout the region.

Before that bridge was built, the old culvert limited passage between the two water bodies, restricting where boaters could travel and reducing the economic potential of both lakes. After the bridge was completed, the entire area benefited: property values increased, visitor traffic grew, businesses like mine expanded their customer base, and the recreational quality of the entire lake system improved. That single infrastructure investment – made possible by grant funding – generated economic returns that have compounded for over twenty years.

That experience taught me three critical lessons about grant-funded projects:

1. **Strategic infrastructure investments create lasting economic value** - The County Road T bridge didn't just improve navigation for one season; it fundamentally increased the utility and attractiveness of the entire lake system in perpetuity.

2. **Grant funding makes economically beneficial projects financially viable -**
Without federal support, replacing that culvert with a bridge would have been cost-prohibitive for the county. Grant funding turned a necessary improvement into an achievable reality.
3. **Community leadership matters in securing grants -** Successful grant applications require local stakeholders who understand the problem, articulate the solution, and demonstrate community commitment. I was proud to play a role in making that bridge project happen, and I recognize that same kind of focused leadership in the MFA's current grant application.

The EWM Crisis and Its Economic Impact

The recent expansion of EWM to 257 acres — the worst infestation since before 2014 — threatens the recreational quality that makes the Minong Flowage valuable to businesses like mine and to the regional economy. As a marina operator, I see the problem every day: boats coming in with props tangled in milfoil, guests complaining about swimming conditions, reduced access to fishing areas, and declining water quality.

If EWM continues to expand unchecked, it will do exactly the opposite of what the County Road T bridge did — it will reduce the utility and attractiveness of the lake, drive visitors away, lower property values, and undermine the economic vitality that depends on recreational access to clean water.

Why This Grant Application Deserves Funding

The MFA's comprehensive three-year management plan incorporates multiple proven strategies: herbicide application, mechanical harvesting, manual removal, and winter drawdown. This integrated approach is exactly what's needed to address a complex invasive species problem that won't respond to any single management technique.

More importantly, the MFA has demonstrated the kind of community commitment that makes grant funding effective. They've raised over \$20,000 from members since June 2025, developed detailed management plans, secured operational cooperation from the dam operator, and built support from local businesses, property owners, and government entities. This isn't a group asking the DNR to solve their problem for them — this is a community stepping up with financial resources and volunteer capacity, asking the state to amplify their efforts.

With 4,501 boat launches documented during just 46 days in 2025, the Minong Flowage remains one of the most heavily used recreational lakes in northwest Wisconsin. That level of activity generates substantial economic value: nearly 400 property owners paying taxes, approximately 400 RV campsites supporting tourism, thousands of visitors patronizing local businesses, and marinas like mine serving boaters who come to enjoy clean water and good fishing.

Protecting that economic engine requires investment in invasive species management. The DNR's grant funding will generate returns similar to what the County Road T bridge created – long-term economic benefit that far exceeds the initial investment.

Our Commitment

Pogo's Harbor Inn is contributing \$500.00 to support the MFA's invasive species management efforts, demonstrating our confidence in their plan and our commitment to protecting the resource that sustains our business.

As a business owner who depends directly on the Minong Flowage's recreational quality, and as someone who has seen how strategic grant investments can transform local infrastructure and economic opportunity, I strongly urge the DNR to approve this grant application. The MFA has done the hard work of planning, fundraising, and building community support. They deserve state partnership to make their comprehensive management plan successful.

Sincerely,

/s/Richie Podgorak

Richie Podgorak
Owner, Pogo's Harbor Inn
7194 County Road T
Gordon, WI 54838
715-466-2836
pogosharborinn@yahoo.com



SWIFT
NATURE
CAMP

Where Nature is Fun!

swiftnaturecamp.com

swiftcamp@aol.com

(630) 654 8036

Dear Mr. Johnson,

As President of the Minong Foliage Association, We at Swift Nature Camp wish to inform you that we are quite excited that new environmental projects may be coming to the Minong Flowage. As in the past we are offering support of camper and staff time to help with the implementation of the AIS grant.

Please let us know how we can assist.

Sincerely,

Lonnie & Jeff Lorenz
Director/Owner
Swift Nature Camp

cc/ Dave Blumer
Lake Education and Planning Services