



## MINONG FLOWAGE ASSOCIATION

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### MFA's January 15, 2022 Board Meeting MINUTES

**Date:** January 15, 2022  
**Time:** 9:00am to 11:00am  
**Location:** via Zoom

**Board Member Attendance:** Dave Perrin (President), Kim Zeuli (Secretary), Adrienne Banaszynski, Tim Overom, Joe McGrath, Rockne Johnson, Dan Maxwell (outgoing President), David Marsh and Craig Krupke  
**Other Attendees:** Dave Blumer (lake association consultant, LEAPS)

#### **Opening Remarks and Minutes Approval:** **Dave Perrin**

- A motion to receive the October 2021 Board Meeting Minutes as presented was made by David Marsh; it was seconded and passed without dissent.
- Dave Perrin prepared the October minutes in Kim Zeuli's absence.

#### **Treasurer's Report:** **Dave Perrin**

- Peggy Bruzda is serving as interim Treasurer since Karen Turnquist stepped down in summer 2021. Peggy is willing to serve as interim until the annual summer meeting, but not beyond.
- The Treasurer's Report was distributed to all board members by email prior to the meeting.
- Over \$61,000 is currently in the MFA account.
- MFA received the final CBCW grant payment from 2021 and paid out the Boy Scouts.
- MFA also received the first payment for the drawdown.
- A motion to receive the Treasury Report as presented was made by David Marsh; it was seconded and passed without dissent.

#### **MFA Membership Report:**

- No Membership Report was presented to the board.

#### **Drawdown Update:** **Dave Perrin**

- Dave reminded members that MFA monitors lake levels and members should direct concerns to MFA.
- Several board members provided updates at the board meeting and by email before the board meeting. Dan Maxwell reported that he reviews lake conditions regularly and takes pictures.
- Overall, it is good news, as there is little snow and cold temperatures, which are perfect conditions for milfoil management.
- Dave Blumer responded to a question on plant vegetation debris—he expects it to disintegrate at the bottom of the lake and there will not be any need for a beach cleanup.
- No board members reported hearing any comments or complaints about the drawdown from others on the lake, other than some positive comments that MFA was being proactive about milfoil management.
- There was a discussion regarding the impact of the drawdown on steep bank erosion. Since the drawdown is keeping waves away from the steep banks there is less erosion, could we revisit a permanent lower level? Dan Maxwell reminded the board that we cannot keep a lower level permanently because we are regulated by DNR and Washburn County statutes to keep the flowage within 6" of the normal 'pool

elevation level.' Lower levels also raise issues for some pre-set dock levels and there is also a contract with the energy company that maintains the dam. Dave Blumer advised the board not to consider a permanent lower level for many ecological reasons as well.

- There was discussion on riprap lake edging. Dave Perrin did shoreline survey a couple of years ago and properties without it had collapsed shoreline and bare sand. There is general confusion around shoreline management and riprap can be very unobtrusive. Dave Blumer said property owners need to go through permitting process with DNR and does not know if there are any exceptions for the flowage.

#### **Clean Boats/Clean Waters (CBCW): Rockne Johnson**

- Rockne provided a verbal update. The grant has been paid up for 2021 and approved for 2022; MFA received the first payment.
- The Boy Scouts wants to split their commitment with others, perhaps working weekends and find others to fill in during the week for them during the summer and when they go back to school (they are done around August).
- Approximately 200 volunteer hours need to be logged or MFA is leaving money on table. This is a matching obligation in the grant and we have been short a few hours for the past two years. Board members suggested the River Church youth group (Tim will bring it up to them), college groups, retirees, national honor societies, and Swift Nature Camp (Dave P will ask them). Board members are encouraged to send other ideas to Dave Perrin or Rockne.
- Dave Blumer was asked if DNR was considering increasing the volunteer wage (\$12/hour), since many other employers were increasing wages. He said that they were not, as far as he knew.
- Dave Perrin thanked Rockne for his service, as this was his last year supporting CBCW. Rockne acknowledged the mentorship of Wayne Johnson.

#### **Fish Sticks: Dan Maxwell**

- Dan provided a verbal update, and noted first option for installation of his fish stick would be late January or early February. The board supported the idea of Dan sending out a letter to all MFA members who may be interested in attending the installation on his property. He will send it to the board to review.
- Dave Blumer commented that fish sticks could be used instead of riprap to prevent shoreline erosion as they break up waves before they hit the shoreline. Natural brush on shoreline also helps erosion. 'Coarse woody habitat' generally gets removed, which removes fish habitat.
- Dan Maxwell said his two fish sticks have attracted fish and aquatic plants.
- Property owners do need a permit from DNR to install fish sticks. Installing them in the winter is easier because they need to be cabled to shoreline to prevent drift and heavy machinery is needed to move the large trees used as fish sticks.

#### **Succession Planning: Dave Perrin**

- Dan Maxwell shared an updated Board Tenure Chart by email with all board members. He also signaled that although he was eligible to run for a membership position, he did not plan to do so. He will remain focused on the drawdown grant management and the upcoming need for a new 5-year Aquatic Plant Management (APM) plan.
- Every board member currently serving on the board is up for re-election and Dave Perrin, Rockne and Joe are all rolling off the board due to term limits. Two board officer positions need to be filled: President and Treasurer. Members are also needed to manage CBCW and Membership. Dave Perrin is reaching out to Karen to check in on her wellbeing and ask about her plans to continue serving on the board.
- The board agreed succession planning should be the main agenda item for the April board meeting. MFA needs a minimum of seven board members.
- In the interim, Dave Perrin will reach out to board members to gauge their interest in serving additional terms and/or interest in leadership positions.

- The board discussed ideas on how to recruit new board members. No one is currently in charge of new membership since Karen stepped back in summer, but Peggy used to do it and Robert Budden is still involved. Dan Maxwell has the annual meeting list of attendees which he will share with the board to review for potential candidates. He also noted that a non-member could step in to manage CBCW or other board projects. There was also recognition that for future annual meetings the sign-in list should explicitly ask if they are interested in serving on the board.
- Adrienne is sending out the spring newsletter before the annual meeting and it could include a ‘neon insert’ asking for new board member interest. Robert could also send out blurb once a month to ask for new members. Board agreed that we need to be very proactive in soliciting interest from all members. Adrienne will also follow up Karen’s work soliciting committee members from different membership quadrants.
- Some board members suggested sharing with potential members that the biggest board challenges were over; another drawdown over the next several years is unlikely. It should be a good time to come on the board. Other board members countered saying there were many big issues the board should address, including legislation on wake boats, policing the flowage, the brochure, drawdown payments, erosion, etc.
- Dave Perrin would like members to come with a list of potential new members to consider at the April meeting.
- The board discussed the process for nominating board officers and Dan Maxwell commented that it has been a very informal process in the past, with a sidebar conversation and voting happening at the summer meeting.

#### **Closing Remarks: Dave Perrin**

- Dave asked if the board wanted to move the April meeting since it was the Saturday before Easter. The board agreed to keep the date and time as is.
- Dave also asked the board to weigh in on the location for the annual meeting. There was consensus that Swift Camp was the board’s first choice with a BBQ lunch, but Wascott Town Hall would be a good second choice (with rolls and coffee). Dave will look into availability at both locations.
- Dave wished everyone a safe and healthy spring and quick and full recoveries for those impacted by COVID.

#### **Adjournment:**

- A motion to adjourn was made by Tim Overom that was seconded and unanimously approved without discussion at 11:15.

**A reminder to the board to track their volunteer hours on the MFA website.** This is important for grants. The link for tracking: <http://minongflowage.org/volunteer/log-volunteer-hours/>. It is very easy!

#### **MFA Board Meetings Upcoming:**

- **April 16, 2022—via Zoom**
- **June 11, 2022—Annual meeting**
- **October 2022—TBD**

#### **MFA Board Calendar:**

- Fall—October
- Winter—January
- Spring—April
- Summer—Annual meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of June, per bylaws