



## MINONG FLOWAGE ASSOCIATION

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### **Minong Flowage Stakeholders 10-27-22 Meeting: MINUTES**

**Date:** October 27, 2022  
**Time:** 9:00am to ~11:00am  
**Location:** DNR Headquarters – Spooner and via Microsoft “Teams” online

#### **Attendance - Onsite:**

- Blumer, Dave – LEAPS
- Burns, Lisa – WCAIS
- Danielson, Brian – WCHD
- Fleming, Katie – CLA
- Gunderson, Mary – MFA
- Gunderson, Paul – MFA
- Johnson, Harlan – MFA
- Maxwell, Dan - MFA
- Roberts, Craig – DNR
- Saver, Jason – CLA
- Toshner, Pamela – DNR
- Vande Voort, Ashley – DCAIS
- White, Becky – MFA

#### **Online Attendees:**

- Banaszynski, Adrienne – MFA
- Banaszynski, Scott – MFA
- Cottrell, Amy – GLIFWC
- Kreuzscher, Jason- RWE
- Stewart, Zach – DCAIS
- Vogt, Dave – MFA

#### **Opening Remarks: [Dan Maxwell](#)**

- Note: A link to the Power Point presentation will be posted on the MFA’s website (MinongFlowage.Org) / Home Page / Hot Topics
- Agenda overview.
- Brief history of Major Events (since 2002’s discovery of EWM on the Minong Flowage).

#### **Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) conditions before, and after the 2021-2022 lake drawdown: [Dave Blumer](#)**

- Note: A link to the Power Point presentation will be posted on the MFA’s website (MinongFlowage.Org) / Home Page / Hot Topics
- Primary page = #14 of 30: 2022 Fall EWM Bed Mapping
  - EWM beds were basically eradicated in water depth of zero to 5-feet.
  - EWM beds greater than 5-feet survived the drawdown.
- Manoomin/Wild Rice beds continue to thrive after the drawdown.

- EWM is present, but not “bed-size”, in the east basin (rice beds).
- Manoomin/Wild Rice beds were rated as “average” by GLIFW’s aerial report, which implies no significant harm caused by the drawdown.

### Open Discussion:

- The general consensus of the group is that the drawdown appears to be an effective tool for controlling shallow-water EWM and should remain in the 5-year APM (Aquatic Plant Management) plan.
  - Toshner:
    - The DNR currently considers herbicides & drawdowns to be an effective tool for controlling EWM when certain criteria are met.
    - The “Minong Flowage EWM project” is likely to be the most comprehensive project of its kind in the state.
  - Roberts:
    - The 2022 annual walleye survey for “Young Of The Year” statistic came in at **216 YOY walleye per mile of lakeshore**.
    - This is a significantly higher number than recent surveys for any lake in our area.
    - The DNR will continue to encourage harvest of smaller walleye to support the expansion of larger walleye sizes over time.
    - This survey focus’ on walleye, but often blue gill is observed in the dip nets. This year’s blue gill observations were remarkably higher than any year in recent memory.
    - The DNR continues to plan on a species-wide fish survey next year if budgets and schedules allow.
  - Johnson:
    - Getting good feedback on the EWM eradication efforts.
    - Rice is noticeably expanding along the river channel west of Smith’s bridge.
  - Stewart:
    - Rice support is a priority item in the Douglas County 5-year plan.
  - White:
    - Discussion: What can the MFA recommend for individuals to do in the EWM control effort?
  - Burns:
    - Echoes the comments of the group.
    - Are there any comparable drawdown studies or efforts throughout Wisconsin?
      - “There are lots of lakes that do drawdowns for various reasons, but not directly comparable to this one”.
  - Vande Voort:
    - Can any natural factors have affected the EWM changes?
      - “None that can be easily identified”.
    - How is the trigger point threshold calculated for go/no-go control efforts?
      - “Influenced by parameters of each individual lake, not a specific statewide standard calculation”.
    - Douglas County is not “pro herbicides”, which will affect EWM control permit requests.
  - Gunderson:
    - The growth of boat traffic is adversely affecting the lake on many parameters, not just EWM.
  - Danielson:
    - From the county’s perspective, the drawdown project went well.
    - The rate water level reduction is not an exact science. The managers need a free-hand to do the day-to-day activities.
    - Many other Washburn County lakes do winter drawdowns for assorted reasons.

- Given a choice, they would rather have the 5-foot target date be October 15<sup>th</sup>, rather than November 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Saver:
    - Will Cranberry Lake be included in the 2023 Point Intercept survey?
      - “To be determined”.
    - Could a combination of hand-pulling and other methods be more efficient?
      - “Would not be easy to administer and manage”.
    - Cranberry Lake’s plant population (not just EWM) has exploded in recent years. What can be done?
      - “To be determined, but most control efforts only focus on invasive species, not native plants”.
  - Fleming:
    - Why is Cranberry Lake’s water clearer than the Minong Flowage’s?
      - “It is spring-fed”. “It’s water doesn’t come from the Totagatic River”.
    - Is it OK to encourage individuals to use “Aquacide” type products on their shoreline?
      - “Only if they have a permit, which is difficult to get”.
      - “Such activity is subject to citations and fines”.
  - Kreuzscher:
    - Credit for the entire process goes to the team manages the dam on a day-to-day basis.
    - RWE’s felt that the process went smoothly.
    - Minus 5-feet is the recommended depth limit. Any deeper risks turbine damage.

Respectfully submitted to meeting attendees, drawdown committee members and MFA board members.

Dan Maxwell  
MFA Drawdown Committee