

# MINUTES

## Town of Minong Lakes Committee

August 6, 2008, 3pm, Home of Doug Bush (Minong Flowage)

Present: Peter Miller (Kimball Lake)  
Sam Lewis and Kate Zimmerman (Nancy Lake)  
Tim Poucher (Horsehoe Lake)  
Don Johnson (Pokegama Lake)  
Doug Bush and Ron Brown Minong Flowage)  
John Ney and Russ Robinson (Gilmore Lake)  
Lisa Gabriel (Washburn County AIS Coordinator)  
Pam Toshner (WDNR)

Absent: Tony Tubbs, Bob Holman

Chairperson Sam Lewis called the meeting to order at 3pm.

The first order of business was unanimous approval of the July minutes.

Sam passed a copy of a letter he had drafted to Sportsman's Headquarters in Minong, Wisconsin, requesting they stock non-lead fishing tackle along with the lead items. The committee approved the draft without modification and agreed to have their names attached with Sam's as signatures.

Sam next distributed a letter that was prepared for Nancy Lake residents with information related to laws, local telephone numbers and other public information. It was suggested that other lake association might want to offer a similar letter to their members.

Sam and Russ related the outcome of their meeting with Tony Tubbs to discuss the possibility of having a Town Lakes Fair next year. Sam distributed an outline of what was discussed.

Doug asked if the Town of Wascott could be included in the Fair. The opinion of the committee was that the Fair should target the Town of Minong residents. Others could attend but their attendance would not be solicited.

The objectives and design of a pontoon classroom inclusion in the Fair was discussed. Pam related that similar events that she had attended were very worthwhile but the time allotment we were considering was probably not adequate. The committee agreed that a pontoon classroom might better be held as a separate event at a later date.

Funding of the Fair was next discussed. Pam indicated that the WDNR might be able to help with funding either through a small scale Planning Grant (\$3K limit) or as an education component of CBCW grant. Some funding might also be available from WAL or Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Association. We might also be able to solicit funds from local business and perhaps hold a raffle.

The decision to hold a Lakes Fair next year was brought forward for a vote. All members were in favor of going forward with the project, and each member in attendance agreed to being a member on one of the sub-committees.

The plan is to hold the Fair at the Township Hall the last Saturday of July of 2009. We will present the plan for the Fair to the Township at their September meeting. By September, some of the sub-committees would have to get started, particularly for Program planning and grant applications.

The following list of five sub-committees was agreed to:

Finance, Food and Drink, Advertising, Set up/take down, and Programs

A separate discussion was held to discuss the committee interest in establishing a Township CBCW/AIS. Pam related how the Town of Barnes was set up with a Coordinator and three inspectors. Up to 40 volunteers help with the inspections. Contributions are made to the Town of Barnes to support the effort. The committee voted not to pursue a similar CBCW town-wide program at this time but will reconsider the proposal at a later date.

Ron and Doug gave some insight into the Minong Flowage history. Ron distributed an outline of the Flowage's history beginning with the building of the dam in 1936-37. The Minong Flowage is approximately 1700 acres in size with a maximum depth of 21 feet. The original river bed had two small lakes. The Flowage dam was last repaired in 1996.

John brought up the issue of boat landing ownership and responsibility for discussion. Most of the landings are owned by the Town and he questioned whether the DNR would be interested in acquiring responsibility. Pam said that John should contact Ed Slaminski at the Spooner office to see if the DNR would have an interest in acquisition of these landings. John agreed to follow up with Ed and report back.

Pam was then asked the following questions related to WDNR.

1. What did she see as the largest challenges facing the aquatic environment in NW Wisconsin  
-AIS  
-Shoreline development/Management
2. How is the State and WDNR addressing these issues?  
-Increasing local and County involvement.  
-Funding for AIS has more than doubled in the last year from \$2M to \$4.4M.  
-The Governor's Office has been a strong supporter of protecting WI Waterways.  
-Effective enforcement of County shoreline regulations is a problem and not adequately funded.
3. Tourism and lake activities are a big part of the economic picture in Washburn County. Is this recognized by Wisconsin State politicians?  
-The answer is "YES". She mentioned an upcoming Governor's visit to Bayfield County to observe their AIS program.

The next meeting is schedule for Thursday, September 4, 2008 at Don Johnson's house. Directions to follow.