



# CFAPOA

CHIPPEWA FLOWAGE AREA  
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Established 1983

Summer 2019

## The Big Chip News

### View from the Chair July 2019

#### ANNUAL PICNIC AND MEETING.

SAVE THE DATE OF AUGUST 4 AT 11:00 AM FOR THE ANNUAL PICNIC AND MEETING. VOTE YOUR MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS. FREE FOOD AND BEER.

#### SPRING FLING.

Simply put, those attending the annual Spring Fling at Treeland Resorts seemed to have a good time. Some new members came forward and expressed their interest in the Flowage and the association. However, simply put, the attendance was low. We changed the time from 4:00 to 2:00, thinking people might appreciate an earlier time – a time that could be combined with a boat ride or a Sunday activity.

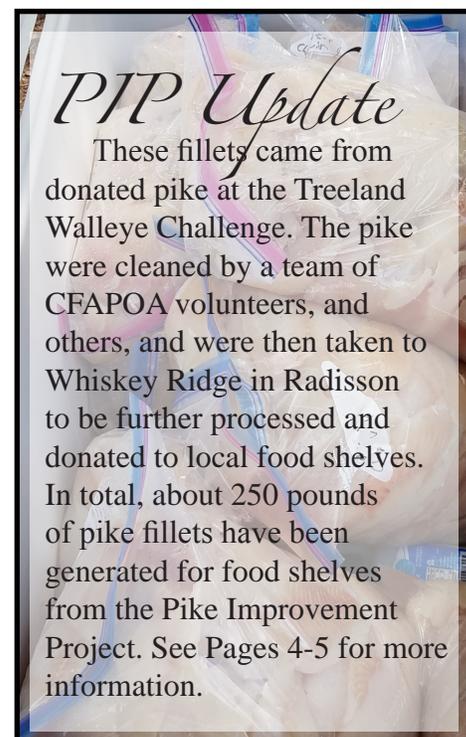
#### XCEL INFORMATION UPDATE.

In the last newsletter, I wrote

that the Board of Directors requested Xcel Energy for information about what factors determine Xcel's decision whether to draw down the Chippewa Flowage each Fall and Winter season. Each Fall and Winter, our members ask if there will be a drawdown of the Flowage, the amount of the drawdown and the reasons why. While we can usually relay information about whether a drawdown may occur and, maybe, the anticipated amount of the drawdown, we normally do not have an answer to the question "why?"

We asked Xcel help us understand the FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) regulations for reservoirs downstream of the Chippewa Flowage and to help us understand

*Continued on Page 2*



what basic factors are considered in making a drawdown decision. We need a better understanding of the hydrology and FERC regulations of the Chippewa River and the manner in which the Chippewa Flowage interacts with Xcel's management of its downstream reservoirs. We requested all FERC operating requirements for Moose Lake and down the Chippewa River.

The information we requested from Xcel and the information we received is included in the materials following this article. To access the information in the chart, go to the FERC E-Library and search for the project number. I need to warn you that the site is not easy to navigate. Our thanks to Xcel (Rob Olson) for gathering this information for us. We also learned at the Lake Partners Group May meeting that WDNR recommendations for drawdowns carry substantial weight with Xcel operations.

As you know, the Chippewa River, Wisconsin's second largest river, is used for hydro energy generation as it drops 700 feet in elevation along its length. Xcel's predecessor companies capitalized on this potential by constructing six power plants and reservoirs on the river.

The upstream reservoir in the system is our Chippewa Flowage which was formed in 1923 by the Chippewa Reservoir Dam (Winter Dam.) Although the

Chippewa Flowage produces a small amount of electricity, it is a storage reservoir exempt from FERC regulation which means that operations are basically in Xcel's management discretion. (All other reservoirs on the Chippewa River operated by Xcel are regulated by United States FERC regulation.)

Xcel's first hydro plant downstream from our Flowage is Holcombe Hydro in Chippewa County. Construction of this facility was completed in 1950 and involved the flooding of approximately 4,300 acres of forest and swamp land.

Xcel's next downstream hydro plant is Cornell Hydro which Northern States Power Co. (Xcel's predecessor) acquired in 1929 from a paper company. The 836-acre reservoir was finally redeveloped in 1977. Burnet Island State Park, just upstream from the dam, was made possible through land donations from the company.

Jim Falls is only a 996-acre reservoir but when completed in 1988, it became the largest hydro facility in the Midwest in terms of generating capacity. During redevelopment, more than 30,000 cubic yards of excess rock and soil was used to build a horseshoe-shaped extension onto the existing island in Old Abe Lake. The added portion of the island has rock surfaced slopes extending into the water to provide fish habitat. Other features of the project include a small bird sanctuary and wild

flower walking trails.

Next is the 6,200-acre Wissota Hydro located on the river just northeast of Chippewa Falls. This developed into Lake Wissota and Wissota State Park for recreation in 1918 at the confluence of the Chippewa and Yellow Rivers and Paint Creek. Wissota Hydro provides daily peaking power to meet the high mid-day energy demands during the week. To permit this mode of operation, water coming down the Chippewa River is retained in Lake Wissota and released through turbines as needed. This results in water fluctuations in Lake Wissota of up-to-one-foot over a week.

Chippewa Falls Hydro was built in 1928 and includes only 282 acres. The facility dominates the scenery for visitors who enter Chippewa Falls on the Highway 124 bridge.

The last hydroelectric plant on the Chippewa River is the Dells Hydro in Eau Claire. It includes an 1183-acre impoundment known as Dells Pond. The original Dells Dam was built in 1878 during the logging boom. After various redevelopments, Xcel purchased the facility from the City of Eau Claire in 2003.

(Acknowledgement: Facts obtained from information provided by Xcel.)

Summary of Operating Requirements for the Chippewa River Storage and Hydroelectric Facilities.

<u>Project</u>	<u>FERC Project No.</u>	<u>Regulatory Agency</u>	<u>License Expiration Date</u>	<u>Reservoir Levels</u>	<u>Min. Flow Requirements</u>
Moose Lake	NA	WDNR order	NA	1368.00 ft. to 1374.0 ft. (fall drawdown)	16 cfs, 32 cfs
Chippewa Reservoir	108/8286	FERC *	NA	1298.0 ft. to 1315.00 ft.	90 cfs (FERC), 250 cfs (WDNR)
Holcombe	1982	FERC	30-Sep-33	1044.5 to 1045.0 ft. - April 1 - June 7 1044.0 ft. to 1045.0 ft. - remainder	None
Cornell	2639	FERC	30-Nov-23	1001.5 ft. to 1002.0 ft. - April 1 - June 7 1001.0 ft. to 1002.0 ft. - remainder	400 cfs
Jim Falls	2491	FERC	30-Sep-33	952.5 ft. to 953.2 ft. - April 1 - June 7 951.2 ft. to 953.2 ft. - remainder	850 cfs (spillway channel - spring) 240 cfs - remainder
Wissota	2567	FERC	30-Sep-33	897.5 ft. to 898.0 ft. - April 1 - June 7 897.0 ft. to 898.0 ft. - remainder	None
Chippewa Falls	2440	FERC	31-Dec-33	838.5 ft. to 839.5 ft.	1,000 cfs
Dells	2670	FERC	30-Sep-33	794.0 ft. to 795.0 ft. - April 1 - May 31 793.0 ft. to 795.0 ft. - remainder	Run-of-river in spring (outflow = inflow) Flow couplets - min. and max. varies by inflow

\*Operating requirements are from exemption order to Northern States Power Company-Wisconsin and LCO.

H:\references\ChippewaReservoir\Partners Team\Chippewa River Summary of Operating Requirements.xlsx

## CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS UPDATE

by Barb Salomon and Diane Hulke, CBCW Co-coordinators

The 2019 CFAPOA Clean Boats Clean Waters Grant from WDNR for the Chippewa Flowage is \$16,000 for 4 public boat ramps. We provide 25% (\$5333) through volunteer hours and CFAPOA funds.

Our team of 8 inspectors is at work, and we are adjusting schedules to work with individuals on vacation and other time commitments.

We have modified our schedule to expand Saturday and holiday hours to 8 hours. Our inspectors now have some discretion in when

to work their hours, to more easily adjust for weather conditions and other factors.

In response to our request for the Lake Chippewa Flowage Resort Association to support Clean Boat Clean Waters principals and practices, the LCFRA board has decided to do just that. We will be assisting the LCFRA and its members to access Clean Boats materials, messaging. Look for CBCW and Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers logos on LCFRA advertising and other materials.



Here is where our program stood through June 9:

Boats inspected ..... 1226  
 People contacted ..... 2894  
 Monitor hours..... 446  
 % of boaters contacted for the first time this season by CBCW: .....69%  
 % of boaters in waters other than the Flowage in the prior 5 days:.....8%

Thank you for your continuing support. See you on the ramps.



# Pike Improvement Project

## *Will we hit our goal?*

by Max Wolter – WDNR Fisheries Biologist

It's July, meaning we are well past the half-way point for the Pike Improvement Project (which runs from Jan 1, 2019 through the end of September). If you need a refresher, the Pike Improvement Project, or "P.I.P.", is a cooperative effort between DNR, the CFAPOA, Lake Chippewa Flowage Resort Owners Association, Hayward Lakes Chapter of Muskies Inc. and the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame. The goal is to reduce the abundance of northern pike by harvesting 10,000 of them during the span of the project. We hope lower pike abundance will lead to increased pike size and create more balance in the fishery. That prescription actually goes all the way back to the 2006 Chippewa Flowage Fishery Management Plan, but this is the first big effort to achieve that vision. Unlike efforts on other lakes where DNR can remove large numbers of pike through netting or shocking, the "P.I.P. on the Chip" relies heavily on getting anglers to harvest pike. To do this, a raffle and prize system were put in place and a large outreach effort was made that includes signs, articles, social media posts, in-person meetings and presentations, radio

interviews, and person-to-person contacts by Clean Boats Clean Waters staffers.

So how is the P.I.P. going? At the end of May there were 3,844 pike that were known to be harvested from the Chip. That includes the pike registered through the raffle tickets, those harvested by tribal members, some pike reported from tournaments that were not in the raffle, and some pike that were sacrificed for further study as a part of DNR surveys. Sounds pretty good right? After 2 months of ice fishing and one month of open water fishing we are 38% of the way to our goal, with 4 months of open water fishing to go!

At this early stage in the game confidence seems to be high. I have heard some folks say that they think we'll hit our target by the 4th of July. Others have said we should increase our target to 20,000.

I say: not so fast.

It is still going to be very difficult to get the remaining 6,000+ pike. We know from past creel surveys of anglers on the Chip that May and June have the highest catch rate for pike (# caught per hour fished). Those two months are behind us now. July and August send pike deeper and make them harder to locate, even for anglers

who are actively trying to catch them. Young bluegill, perch, and crappie hatched this spring will become abundant throughout the lake, providing an alternate food for pike, meaning they may be more likely to ignore anglers' offerings. Much of the May pike harvest was driven by a handful of large tournaments where hundreds of anglers were on the water and they had the choice to donate their pike if they didn't want them. Those events were popular, and many people who had no interest in keeping their pike took advantage of the donation option. But there are no more tournaments of that kind planned in the home stretch of this project. And of course, the more we remove in the early months of this project, the less will be available to catch later on. All these factors will conspire to make the last 5,000 pike much harder to get than the first 5,000.

Getting all the way to our goal of 10,000 is going to be tough. But I've seen some very impressive things happen on the Chippewa Flowage. To be successful, we need to keep the message out there about harvesting pike and why. Keep it positive, keep it fun (because fishing is supposed to be fun!). Keep reminding people that harvest means using the fish, not

just killing the fish and tossing it out of the boat. We particularly need to reach people that are not targeting pike but will likely catch some anyhow. Creel data shows that over half the pike caught each year are caught “incidentally” while targeting a different species (often walleye, bass, or musky, but sometimes panfish too).

Hitting our goal will also be dependent on people choosing to harvest pike that are much smaller than what they would normally consider keeping. That’s an important part of this project. If people will only harvest 24-28 inch pike, not only will we fail to get to 10,000, we will have almost no chance of actually improving the size of pike going forward. So far, anglers have shown at least some willingness to keep small pike (referred to by some as “picklers” since that is a great way to eat them). Through May, the average size of pike harvested in the PIP was 20.3 inches and 84% of those harvested were less than 24 inches. Those are good numbers, but as summer wears on we’ll need even more harvest of “snakes”.

My hope is that this update will be an effective mix of optimism and reality to keep people engaged in this project through the last few critical months. This is our moon shot. If we go through this big effort and come up short, there is no apparent Plan B for improving pike size and creating more space in the fishery for other

# Pike 2019 Improvement Project

**GOAL** – Remove 10,000 northern Pike from Lake Chippewa this season (Especially those under 24")

**BENEFIT** – Such selective harvest can improve all fish populations and create a favorable environment for muskies that will be stocked this fall

**HARVEST** pike on the flowage and win prizes!

**GRAND PRIZE**  
\$1000 awarded by drawing from Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame.

Thousands of dollars in prizes and gift certificates from LCFRA and CFAPOA.

Our partners are Lake Chippewa Flowage Resort Association, Chippewa Flowage Area Property Owners Association, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Lac Courte Oreilles Conservation Department, and Hayward Chapter of Muskies Inc.

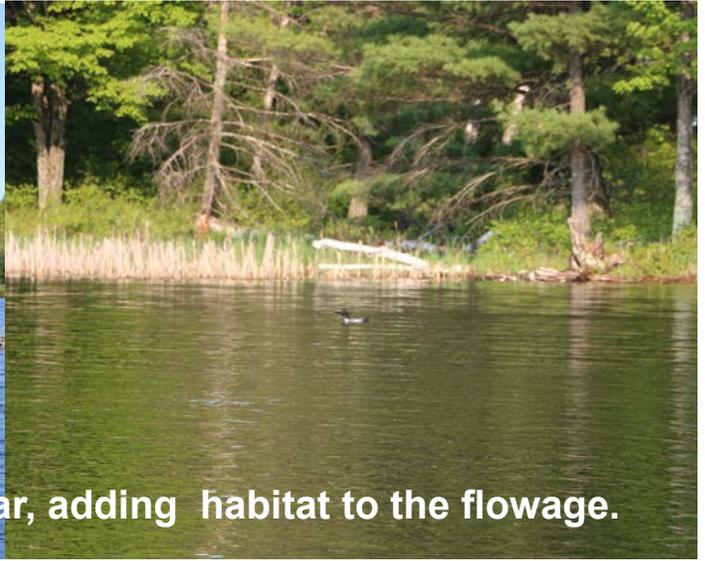
**So! Gather your fishing gear and get ready to harvest northern pike!**

For rules, entry locations, pike cleaning videos and recipes go to [www.chippewaflowage.com](http://www.chippewaflowage.com)

ALL CATCH DATA WILL BE TABULATED BY WDNR

desired species like walleye and musky. I’ve enjoyed participating in this personally (my family and friends have harvested about 32 going back to ice season). I hope that as shoreline owners with a lot invested in the health of this lake you’ve been participating

as well. And if not, I hope you’ll join us for the home stretch of the project. There could be some great fish fries and pickled fish in it for you.



A few of the 565 trees dropped this year, adding habitat to the flowage.



The Lake Chippewa Flowage Resort Association invites you to Adopt-a-Musky. Certificates are available at many Lake Chippewa Flowage resorts, or go online to fill out your adoption form. Follow your fish throughout its lifetime. Passive Integrated Tags (PIT) are scanned every time a musky is netted or shocked by the WDNR with size and location noted. Many fishing guides are also equipped with scanners to update musky data. Adopters will be notified to check the updated website to see if their fish has been recorded.

Sign up at  
[www.Spoonerhatchery.com/adopt-a-musky](http://www.Spoonerhatchery.com/adopt-a-musky)

**Follow the movement and growth of your fish throughout its life.**

**\$5**

*(Suggested Donation)*

*Your contribution is tax deductible. Tax ID #47-1250605*

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

*New!*

James & Janet Evenstad  
Kim & Cindy Neurohr  
Brian, Juliane & Tyler Novak

Lifetime member, John Kaiser  
passed away recently. Our con-  
dolences to his family.



## CFAPOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019

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# SUMMER PICNIC AND ANNUAL MEETING

**IT'S FREE!! COME ON OUT**

**Sunday, August 4, 2019 at Deer Run Resort  
11:00 a.m.**

**Donations to Hayward Community Food Shelf and  
Northwoods Humane Society  
Strongly Encouraged**



# INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE REPORT aka Purple Loosestrife Patrol

by Dennis Clagett

As I write this (June 26th) it is a little early for purple loosestrife to be flowering, but by the time you read this the first purple flower heads will be appearing. This is the yearly starting gun for our Adopt-A-Shoreline volunteers to swing into action, cutting flower heads and pulling plants and roots for landfill disposal. If you are unfamiliar with this program this is how it works. The Chip shoreline is divided into 36 sections, 18 on the west and 18 on the east. CFAPOA members "Adopt" a section (or two) usually close to their home. During the summer months, they monitor shoreline plants looking for invasive aquatic plants like purple loosestrife and Eurasian water milfoil.

I would like to thank new volunteers Brian and Sara Priester for adopting section "O" on the east side. Thank you and welcome aboard! So a big thank you to all you volunteers! We always need new and younger members to step in and become part of this very successful program. You are welcome to contact me to sign up or if you can no longer care for you adopted section. Please contact me 715 462 4814 or rclagett@centurytel.net and thank you for all you do!

This may be a banner year for our other invasive Eurasian water-milfoil. As you may recall last winter there was not an early draw-down (habitat drawdown). This may lead to thick early growth in the shallower waters of our bays and bars this summer. As of now, the high water levels are masking the trouble below.



As a reminder, your feedback to me is an important to the CFAPOA board's input at the Partners Group meetings so please do your best to keep me informed about this and any new potential invasive you encounter.

Name	East Section	West Section
Sue Baron	T	
Ron & Jan Bergman		1
Mike & Lynn Muench	M	
Lisa Costa		12, 13
Gary & Lind Crank		3, 5
Tony DeJoode	T	
Brenda and John Dettloff	L, Z	
Jim & Marion Dier	S	
Alay & Lynda Fish		8, 17
Whitley and Donna Gilbertson		2, 18
<b>*Needs Adoption</b>		<b>10</b>
Gary & Mary Lou Hosler, Roman Rowen	U	
Chris & Patti Jeffords		4
Jerry & Nancy Johnson		6, 9
Larry & Sharon Kirby		10, 14
Roger & Kathy Kisch	W	
Wayne and Sandy Koening		7, 14
<b>*Needs Adoption</b>	<b>J</b>	
Brian and Sara Priester	O	
Terry and Kay Moe	A2	
Rick & Linda Olson	R, X	
Steve & Louise Paulson	H	
Don & Sue Reinardy	E1-2	
Steve & Jane Richardson	W	
<b>*Needs Adoption</b>		<b>15, 16</b>
Barb Salomon & Connie Peterson	T	
Terry & Debra Wall	D	
Darrell & Jean Welihert	E1-2	
Open		11
Mike & Phyllis Gardner	Q	
Gage Muench	P	
Dennis Clagett	Y	
Linda Treland	A1	

**CHIPPEWA FLOWAGE AREA PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION  
PO BOX 555  
HAYWARD, WI 54843-0555**

**ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED**

**CFAPOA** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, formed to generally promote, encourage and foster the interests of all property owners. Its major objectives are: to keep the Chippewa Flowage area clean and safe for all people; to protect the environment; to provide a forum for the collection and exchange of ideas; to support acquisition of land for protection and conservation; and to pursue any other lawful objectives that may benefit this pristine lake, its wetlands, wildlife and tributaries.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
AUGUST 4, 2019	SUMMER PICNIC AND ANNUAL MEETING AT DEER RUN 11:00 A.M.
AUGUST 8, 2019	BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

\*Board meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. CT at Town of Hunter Hall.



CFAPOA Newsletter Editor: Julie Thompson; Newsletter Advisors: CFAPOA Board Members;  
Newsletter Contributors: Friends, Directors and You!