

Established 1983

CFAPOA

Winter 2021

CHIPPEWA FLOWAGE AREA
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

In this issue:

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Pg. 6, CFAPOA Budget Info, Pg. 8.*

The Big Chip News

View from the Chair

by Mike Gardner CFAPOA Chair

The Pike Improvement Project for 2021 has officially launched. The goal of removing 10,000 northern pike 24 inches and smaller is a challenge but the role of CFAPOA members had a significant impact in removing 7,000 in the previous effort. Entry tickets are currently available at local bait shops as well as resorts open in the winter. Present up to 5 pike a day to a participating Chippewa Flowage business and complete an entry ticket so all catch can be tabulated. Stay tuned for updates on drawings and prizes.

Thank you to all members who completed the recent survey. (See results on Pg. 6) Your input is critical to the mission of our organization and the health of the lake. Your Board is listening. If you would like to attend a Board meeting the first Thursday of each month via Zoom send an email request to cfapoa@gmail.com.

The board accepted the resignation of Pete Czarnecki at the

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The Ins and Outs (and Ups and Downs) of Drawdowns

by Allison Slavick

Right now, quick, think of your favorite place on the Chippewa Flowage. Now think of how that place has changed in the last one to fifty (or more) years – as long as you have enjoyed this bountiful body of water in northern Wisconsin. Then read on to learn how an annual drawdown on the Flowage influences and even brings about those changes.

Chippewa Flowage, Lake Chippewa, Chippewa Reservoir, the Big Chip: by whatever name you choose, what's not to like about this magnificent, large "lake" in Wisconsin? At 15,300 acres, the lake offers long stretches of wilderness shoreline, a maze of channels around the 200-plus islands, and unique floating bogs. For those who enjoy kayaking, fishing, or watching birds and other wildlife, the lake offers unparalleled experiences.

Some equate a day on the Chippewa Flowage to a day in the Canadian wilderness. And if you're familiar with the history of the Flowage, you know it's not really a lake at all, but a reservoir or impoundment with a history that stretches back nearly 100 years.

The Flowage was formed when Northern States Power Company (now Xcel Energy) built a dam below the confluence of the East and West Forks of the Chippewa River. This permanently flooded the area above the dam, including the village of Post. Subsumed by the spreading waters that backed up at the dam were nearby small streams, ponds, eleven lakes, and nine natural rivers. Since it was first filled in late March of 1923, the purpose of the reservoir has been, well, to function as a reservoir – to hold a surplus

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Membership Update

by Patty Swaffield, Membership Chair

Welcome New

Members

Leslie Berendt*
Bill & Kim Gleason
Robert & Janna Macdonald
Sandy & Gary Reynolds*
Jeff & Rebecca Schreiner**

*Contributor

**Steward

Contributor

Mark & Trish Andracke
Tom & Arlene Bahr
Bob & Kathy Baker
Leslie Berendt
Steve & Sandy Brubaker
Tom Bruseth
Curt & Pat Chaon
Rusty & Pat Chesmore
Bill & Kathie Decker
Stephen & Rebekah Dupont
Ed & Carol Dutton
Charles & Anita Halbleib
Dan & Martha Hall
Bob & Debbie Hart
Jon & Angie Huth
Jim & Linda Isaacson
Ruben 'Chip' & Holly Kaiser
Steve & Cindy Karstaedt
Steve & Connie Kelsey
Charles & Joanne Keyes
Lee Litzau
Jim & Diane Mazzone
Jerry Metz
Steve & Jeanne Migliacio
John & Ann Mylin
Mark & Leslie O'Connell
Lance & Angela Paulson
Connie & Barb Salomon Peterson
Phillip & Kathy Pierce
John & Connie Piper
Cliff & Janice Podgorski
William H Pokorny Jr. Family
Brian & Sara Priestler

Membership Levels

\$25 – Individual/Property
\$26 to \$124 – Contributor – news-
letter recognition.
\$125 to \$999 – Steward – newsletter
recognition and a gift.
\$1000 and up – Lifetime Conserva-
tionist – newsletter recognition, a
gift, and lifetime membership.

Brian & Jennifer & Family Remick
Sandy & Gary Reynolds
Jeffrey & Julia Richards
Steve & Jane Richardson
Kelly & Sheila Ries
John & Diane Sanchez, Jr.
Paul Schanfield
Roger & Christine Schrank
Gene & Pat Schubert
Russ & Jen Smith
David & Joy Staber
Jim & Colleen Strouss
James & Marcia Suchy
Charles Tibbetts Family
John & Heidi Traxler
Gary & Tami Varilek
Ronnie & Cheryl Weberg
Pat & Gina Wherley
Walt & Pat Wyczawski
Wayne Young
Mike & Phyllis Zelenski
Dale & Mary Zwiefelhofer

Steward

Bill & Nancy Althoff
Bill & Lynn Biederman
John & Dawn Bina
Bob & Pam Cummings
JB, Adam & Spencer Ellis
Merle & Patricia Erickson
Dan & Marcia Hardy
Mark & Peggy Haumersen
John & Judy Hensler
Brad Krizan

Your 2021 Membership re-
newal is now due. You can
renew

1. Online at CFAPOA.org -
use PayPal
2. Download a renewal
form at CFAPOA.org to
mail in.

Thank you for your sup-
port!

John & Shelley Lamoreaux
Norm & Carol Linnell
Mike & Kris Maly
Buzz & Mary Ann Minton III
Mike & Lynn Muench
Floyd Nelson
Charles Radke
Rick & SeDell Rehfeldt
Tony & Laurie Schubert
Jeff & Rebecca Schreiner
Duane Duke Schueller
Pamela & Linda Ellwein Tibbetts
Bev & Jim Wilson
Amanda & Nathan Reynolds Wilson

Lifetime

David Carland

Donations

Treeland Resorts
Ken & Laura Unold



CFAPOA.org

Drawdowns

Continued from Page 1

of water to supplement the flow of the river during years when there were periods of low-flow. In a river's natural system of hydrology, why would low-flow even matter? The dam was constructed for power production, and water flow produces electricity. A certain force of flow, measured in cubic feet per second, is required to generate power. A second purpose for the dam was to control flooding downstream.

Each year there is a “drawdown” – a lowering of the water level on the Flowage. In the 1920s to 1930s, the drawdowns were extreme, sometimes close to the original level of the river.* The reasons for a drawdown involve complex and entwined biological, social, economic, and energy-related factors. In addition to power production and flood control, water levels may be lowered to help control erosion or to allow for repairs on the dam, roads, or bridges. Xcel Energy is the sole decision-maker for the Chip's annual drawdown for these purposes.*

Perhaps no one has more passion for the Flowage than John Dettloff. With nearly fifty years of residency on its shoreline, his knowledge of the history,* surface topography, the islands and floating bogs, and the fishery, is unsurpassed. And he's happy to talk about, even proud of, the upside of drawdowns. According to Dettloff, “Drawdowns are a positive event that are commonly misunderstood. There is nothing to fear from a drawdown.”

The most complex drawdown is for habitat management, typically carried out in late fall and winter as determined necessary. One began on the Flowage in October,

2020. Dettloff is involved in management decisions via the Chippewa Flowage Partners Group, which works in consultation with Xcel. Members of the Group are the Chippewa Flowage Area Property Owners Association, the Flowage Resort Association, the Department of Natural Resources, the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Government, the US Forest Service, and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. Representatives of these organizations put their heads together at frequent meetings to determine the best course of action for habitat management. With the current drawdown, there was a goal of “five feet lower by freeze-up” and a continued drawdown of three feet more by March.

Habitat management drawdowns address the needs and management of the lake's flora and fauna. They may be used to control invasive plant species in the Flowage – notably, Eurasian watermilfoil, an aquatic plant that often becomes a thick mat of tangled stems. Those mats

crowd out native plants and interfere with food and shelter for aquatic organisms. If those mats die beneath the ice, oxygen levels are depleted and massive numbers of fish will die in a process call “winterkill.” Controlling watermilfoil is one of the goals of the current drawdown.*

Habitat drawdowns are also used to manage animal biology, too. For the Flowage's fishery, a drawdown can create conditions that encourage certain species like walleyes and muskies and manage fish size and populations for other species, according to the management goals of fisheries biologists. Drawdowns are a slow process; the one that began in October lowered the water an inch to an inch-and-a-half per day to allow “herps” to adapt to the changing water level. Herps are amphibians and reptiles,* meaning frogs and toads, which burrow into soil or mud for the winter. Turtles, which are also herps, slow their metabolism and live under the ice, as does the mudpuppy, an aquatic salamander. Snakes, which are

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Drawdowns

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occasionally found in the water, would burrow on land for the winter.

Decisions about habitat drawdowns are complex, as depicted on a decision-making flow chart. First and foremost in the decision-making process is Xcel Energy: will they allow a habitat management drawdown? If not, case closed. If they will allow it, other factors come into play, and first and foremost then becomes the ability to restore water levels to full or near full before the fishing opener. Follow the steps in the decision-making grid and you'll see the many nuanced decisions involved. Points are awarded at the various stages, and various agencies are consulted for expert opinions.*

What about refilling the Flowage in the spring? What if there is not enough snowmelt or spring rainfall? "For the past few years, the woods and wetlands around the Flowage have been saturated," says Dettloff. The Flowage is almost always full at ice-out. Having too much water is more common, and higher water levels can have an adverse effect, leading to erosion. "With high water, some of the small grassy islands are lost, and those are important for nesting waterfowl."*

How does one make sense of drawdowns and reconcile the changes one observes? Remember the Chippewa Flowage is a manufactured body of water. As with most complex systems – think of rockets, automobiles, and even a vegetable garden – sound management practices and regular maintenance is required. The Flowage is no different, and

an annual drawdown is tightly woven into the complexity of the manufactured but seemingly natural systems found there. And because the Flowage is subject to unpredictable forces of nature such as rainfall, snowfall, and ice cover, plans can change and managers, residents, and those people who enjoy recreation on the Chip must remain flexible. As much as lake residents and consumers of the Flowage's recreation and fishing opportunities would like more certainty, drawdowns are not an exact science.

That wilderness feeling that the Flowage evokes, the productive and popular fishery, and the native plant populations that support wildlife and are beautiful to look at? Those qualities are protected, encouraged, and maintained by the Partners Group. "Xcel is absolutely fantastic to work with," says Detloff. Indeed, with the many agencies and interests involved, the Flowage is a model for sound and shared management goals for a natural resource.*

When you thought of changes you've observed on the Flowage over the years, maybe you recalled seeing fewer thick mats of invasive plant species in which your boat motor or canoe paddle gets tangled. A habitat drawdown helps keep those plants in check. Maybe you recalled the presence of more walleyes that you like to catch. Drawdowns help manage the Flowage's world-class fishery and balance the populations of fish species. If you enjoy the presence of water lilies bobbing in the bays or interesting aquatic plants along the shore, the drawdown protects their habitat. Those floating bogs, which can shift locations with the flow of water: they contribute to a healthy ecosystem and provide homes for

animals and help balance water chemistry.

The inconveniences, the seasonal changes of the shoreline and water depth – those require a shift in thinking, from one of "this is unsightly and a nuisance" to "we've manipulated the system, and now we're responsible for making it work correctly, for the benefit of everyone." This is how nature works – everything is connected.

A table that shows the levels of annual drawdowns as well as other resources are indicated by an asterisk () and will soon be available at www.cfpoa.org.



Allison Slavick works as a consultant to nonprofits all over the country, especially museums. For fifteen years she directed the Cable Natural History Museum. Previously, she worked as a scientist at the New York Botanical Garden and the Smithsonian Institution. She mountain bikes, skis, and picks berries near her home on Crystal Lake in southern Bayfield County. She may be contacted at allison.slavick@gmail.com.

Adopt-A-Shoreline Volunteers

Name	East	West
"Needs Adoption"	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	
Alan & Lynda Fish		8, 17
Whitley and Donna Gilbertson		2, 18
"Needs Adoption"		10
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 Sharon Koenig		7, 14
Rob and Rebecca Nesse	J	
Brian and Sara Priestler	O	
Terry and Kay Moe	A2	
Rick & Linda Olson	R	
Steve & Louise Paulson	H	
Dave Carland Family and Friends	X	
Don & Sue Reinardy	E1-2	
Steve & Jane Richardson	W	
"Needs Adoption"		15, 16
Barb Salomon & Connie Peterson	T	
Terry & Debra Wall	D	
Darrell & Jean Welihert	E1-2	
Greg and Amy Sanders		11
Mike & Phyllis Gardner	Q	
Gage Muench	P	
Dennis Claggett	Y	
Linda Treland	A1	

Purple Loosestrife Update

by Dennis Claggett

This time is a good time of the year to check your dock and boat lift for colonies of Zebra Mussels. They are small, as you can see in the photo with the ruler (about the size of a fingernail), so look carefully. Zebra mussels attach to hard surfaces such as docks pontoons and boat bottoms that are underwater. This last summer there were many more boats and other watercraft on the water increasing the likelihood of new invasive species being introduced into our waters. If you didn't notice them when the docks were removed, they will still be there now, so it's a good time to check. They are invasive, may have come from Russia, got into the Great lakes, colonized the river basins and spread south toward our lakes and streams. So far none in Sawyer, but Washburn County has them in Big and Middle McKenzie lake. Lets all

welcome Dave Carland family and friends to the Adopt-A-Shoreline program (also known as the purple loosestrife patrol). Dave answered my call to include younger family members into the program as a way to help them become aware of the natural world around us, and our roll in conservation. They will be adopting section X that includes the Cranberry Lake area. Last summer I found a beetle colony that survived the previous winter, so this is a reminder to look for beetle damage to the purple loosestrife plants as you are out and about harvesting PL plant and flower heads. It's important that you let me know if you found damage. As always, we need new volunteers into the program, and hopefully they will bring family and friends along for the experience.



CFAPOA Member Survey Results

by Brian Priester

As a relatively new member of the Board of Directors, when discussing various projects at board meetings I have often found myself asking the question, "what would our members want us to do in this situation?" Well, we now have at least some data to help answer that question.

In December we sent a survey to 220 CFAPOA members (active members with an email address). We had 127 members take the survey, for a response rate of 58%. The main purpose of the survey was to gauge members' support for various types of projects/initiatives around the Big Chip so we can better prioritize where to invest our time and resources. A few highlights of the results are below. Complete results can be found on our website under the "about" tab.

Length of ownership.

Most respondents have owned their Chippewa Flowage property for more than ten years.

Five years or less	9%
5 to 10 years	12%
10 to 20 years	31%
20 or more years	48%

How members use property.

We have a mixture of full-time and seasonal residents; nearly four out of ten describe their use as vacation home or weekend use.

Full Time Resident	22%
Full time seasonal (here all summer)	28%
Vacation home/Weekends	38%
Investment/Rental	5%
Other	8%

Activities.

We are an active group. Not surprisingly, nearly all reported fishing as an activity they participate in on the Chip. Other high participation activities include wildlife watching and just "cruising in the pontoon." The lowest reported activity among respondents was jet skiing. Below is just a partial list.

Fishing	97%
Wildlife Watching	79%
Cruising in pontoon	68%
Kayaking/Canoeing	65%
Swimming	65%
Jet Skiing	11%

Invasive Species and weeds.

Most (88%) are aware of invasive species presence on the Chip and nearly all (98%) are very or somewhat concerned about invasive species. On the positive side 41% of respondents say they've noticed fewer weeds in the past five years, 39% say weeds are about the same and only 20% think weeds have gotten worse.

Fishing.

We asked several questions about fishing in the survey. Clearly the fishery is a big concern among members. When asked about the fishing in the last five years nearly half say it has gotten worse. Interestingly 17% think it has gotten better, while 36% say it is about the same.

Fishing better or much better	17%
Fishing is about the same	36%
Fishing is worse or much worse	47%

We also asked which fish species were most important to members. The scale was 1 to 10 where 1 was least important and 10 was most important. Walleye came out on top followed by crappie and musky. Pike and largemouth bass are clearly the least important fish to members.

Species Importance.

Walleye	8.3
Crappie	7.6
Musky	6.6
Panfish	6.3
Smallmouth Bass	5.6
Pike	4.6
Largemouth Bass	4.3

Habitat Drawdown.

Because there was a lot of discussion about this year's drawdown we wanted to gauge our members support for the habitat drawdown. Nine out of ten expressed support for the habitat drawdown. Just 9% said they do not support the drawdown under any circumstances.

Support at least every few years	91%
Do not support under any circumstance	9%

Satisfied with CFAPOA.

We asked members how satisfied they were with the CFAPOA. On the scale 1 was not satisfied and 10 was very satisfied. Members' overall satisfaction was 8.2 which is a pretty positive mark. However, satisfaction varied when asked about specific issues. These answers will help the board adjust our priorities going forward.

Satisfaction with the CFAPOA	
Overall	8.2
Communication	8.3
Clean Boats Clean Waters	8.0
Loon Watch	8.0
Invasive Species	7.8
Volunteer opportunities	7.0
Fishery	6.8
Social Events	6.6

Priorities.

Perhaps the most important question on the survey, we asked members to rate how important each of these issues are to them, in order to help us direct resources.

Improving fishery	8.7
Clean Boats Clean Waters	7.7
Controlling Invasive Species	7.6
Loon habitat	7.4
Shoreline protection	7.4
Installing Cribs	7.3
Lake Regulation Enforcement	7.0
Newsletter	6.9
Member Directory	5.5

Open ended question.

On the open ended question at the end of the survey several people expressed concern about last fall's drawdown. I want all our members to understand that we do not control the lake level or the drawdown. We have a voice in the habitat drawdown process, but ultimately it is not our decision. When we learn what the plan is, we communicate with members as soon as possible, as we did this year. I believe this year was aggravated by the dry weather we had in September. Hopefully the article in this newsletter will give everyone a better understanding of the drawdown process. I know I learned a lot from it.

Concluding thoughts.

We're still digesting the results of the survey, but the general direction is pretty clear. My key takeaways are:

- In general our members are satisfied with CFAPOA, but they would like us to give more attention to the fishery. The board has already reached out to the DNR to ask for ways we can work with them to improve the fishery. We will be reaching out to other groups as well, such as Muskies Inc. and Walleyes for Northwest Wisconsin. Please understand that there are only so many things we can do as an organization to help the fishery. Besides the fact that our resources are limited, there is very little we can do by ourselves. For example, we cannot unilaterally stock fish and the DNR does not stock fish every year. Rest assured if there is an opportunity for us to donate money or volunteer hours to help stock fish, it is first on our priority list.
- Remember that programs like clean boats clean waters ultimately help protect the fishery. Although programs like these are not as straightforward as stocking fish, they are important programs to the overall health of the lake. The same is true for shoreline protection, the Pike Improvement Project and other invasive species programs. A healthy lake is the best way to have a healthy fishery.
- Social events are not high on your list. The responses indicate pretty clearly that most of our members are not overly interested in social activities. We will be reviewing both the structure and frequency of our social events based on these results.

Finally, I will say that our goal as a board of directors is to represent the desires and wishes of our members as best as we can. The survey results will help guide us in the future. A special thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the survey.

View from the Chair

Continued from Page 1

January meeting and appointed Tony Schubert to complete the term. We thank Pete for his years of valuable service and the many contributions serving as treasurer. For those interested in learning more about CFAPOA and getting involved the best place to start is serving on a committee. We are planning on a more robust committee structure for this year and active volunteers make it happen. The first ever Wisconsin Water Week has been proclaimed for March 8-12, 2021 with the theme of "Navigating in Turbulent Times". Watch for information on innovative ways that water groups are continuing to advance their work in the face of unprecedented challenges. Your membership and continued support helps CFAPOA navigate.



WDNR Fisheries Update

Looking Forward to 2021

by Max Wolter

Greetings CFAPOA. I hope this message finds everyone in good health and spirits. Let's turn the page on 2020, shall we?

The Wisconsin DNR's Hayward Fish Team is hoping to get back to most of our normal fieldwork in spring of 2021, though there is still plenty of uncertainty about those plans. Under the "expected" and "best-case" scenarios we'll be able to spend some time on The Chip gathering important information on our fishery that could inform several different efforts. We were able to complete our normal fall survey in 2020, so I'll fill you in on that. I also have some updates on rule changes and future surveys, itemized below, for your reading convenience:

2020 Fall Survey Recap – We were able to do our normal fall electrofishing survey after some modifications to our protocol. This survey is done annually, and primarily targets juvenile walleye (<12 inches). We found a very solid 2020 year class, matching a pattern that was observed on other lakes in the area. That follows a weaker year class in 2019. We also picked up encouraging numbers of tagged muskies that were stocked in fall 2019. We were pleased to see they are off to a good start (they should be in the 17-24 inch range during open water next year and you may catch some while pike or bass fishing).

WCC fishing rule change – There will be a very significant rule change proposal for the Chippewa Flowage on this year's Conservation Congress Spring Hearing. The proposal would reduce the bag

limit for panfish on the Chippewa Flowage from 25 to 10. If approved, the rule would be in effect year-round, and would continue to be an aggregate panfish bag (example: 7 crappie + 2 bluegill + 1 perch = 10 panfish limit). This proposal was initiated as a citizen resolution. The goal is to improve panfish size and maintain more consistent panfishing quality, primarily for crappie and bluegill. A similar reduced bag limit is in place on several other lakes in the area.

The Conservation Congress Spring Hearings are always the second Monday in April (April 12, this year). Anyone can provide input on these proposals, and the results are very impactful in terms of whether the rule change advances or not. So, whether you like this proposal or not, I would encourage you to participate in the process. The Conservation Congress now allows online input to these proposals and residents and non-residents can participate, so there are really no excuses anymore! Check this link for more details as April approaches:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/wcc>

There's another rule change proposal that some people were likely hoping to see. I wrote up a proposal that would have loosened walleye size limits a bit, something I have heard interest in from many anglers. The proposal got a lot of healthy discussion within DNR, but ultimately the decision was made to not advance it at this time. The rationale was that we are not that far removed from a really concerning

period where it looked like walleye recruitment might collapse. We are still in a sort of recovery mode. If we can show that the stronger recruitment demonstrated over the last few years can be sustained, I plan to submit another rule change proposal. This will be tough to hear for some anglers who were looking for a change. But I hope that most can appreciate this more conservative approach, which seeks to maintain a long-term, sustainable walleye population in the Chip, even as we've seen many other lakes in the area struggle greatly.

2021 Spring Survey Plans – A bunch of people would like to know the population-level results of the Pike Improvement Project, and I'm one of them! We hope to do a pike netting survey shortly after the ice goes out in spring 2021. It would also be beneficial to collect information on walleye and crappie. We may be challenged to collect data on all three of those while also keeping our commitments on other lakes. We're going to try hard to "be everywhere and do everything" after missing a year of spring fieldwork, but some of it may come down to whether we have a "normal" spring or not.

Walleye population estimate and creel – Those who follow fisheries matters very closely may have been aware that 2021 was supposed to be the year we did a full walleye population estimate (actually estimating how many total walleye are in the lake) and creel survey. This is a huge effort that pulls fish teams from all over the region to help, and puts four creel clerks on the water all

summer and fall to interview anglers. The data are incredibly useful. We are expecting this will still happen in the near future, but may be delayed by a year or two.

There may well be a few other projects that come together for 2021. I'm hoping it will be a year of restoration, in many ways. As always, please feel free to drop me a line if you have any fisheries-related questions. We also plan to host an information meeting (virtual) for Sawyer County fisheries issues sometime later this winter. I will send out information on that, via email, to CFAPOA leadership.



Spring 2019. A hatchery technician from Spooner with a nice tiger musky caught in the Chippewa Flowage.

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CFAPOA Operations Summary

You might be wondering how the CFAPOA operates throughout the year. Here is a brief summary.

What does the Association do with the personal information, I enter on the New Member/ Membership Renewal form and why is it important to keep this information accurate?

Firstly, the Association does not collect or store any of your sensitive personal information such as social security number, birth date, nor any credit card numbers. Credit card numbers entered for online membership renewal are only used for that single transaction and not saved.

Secondly, let me reassure you that the Association does not provide or sell your personal information to other organizations.

The primary use of your Mailing address and Email address are to inform you of Association activities via the Newsletter. If requested, the Newsletter, a facsimile of the mailed version, is emailed to you using your provided Email address. Otherwise, your Mailing address is used to send you a paper copy of the Newsletter via USPS. Emailing the Newsletter to you is our preferred type of distribution as it reduces our printing and mailing costs.

We do publish your Name, Mailing address & Phone number, Flowage address & Phone number, and Email address (unless you have requested it not to be published) in our annual membership directory. The directory is useful to contact your neighbors and friends when you may not have their contact information.

Your Email address is used for e-news blasts such as Association announcements (e.g. canceled social

events or annual meeting), Flowage drawdowns, and in 2020 provide you with the ability to vote for Board members. Unless deemed particularly important, by the Board, this type of time sensitive news is typically not sent via USPS. Members who do not provide their Email address or who have “unsubscribed” to our emails will not receive these communications.

Lastly, we use your personal information to send you an acknowledgement of your donation, to call or email you to clarify issues identified with information on the New Member/Membership Renewal form, and to call or email you for volunteer opportunities.

If your personal information has changed since you last supplied it to the Association, please send any updates to CFAPOA@gmail.com.

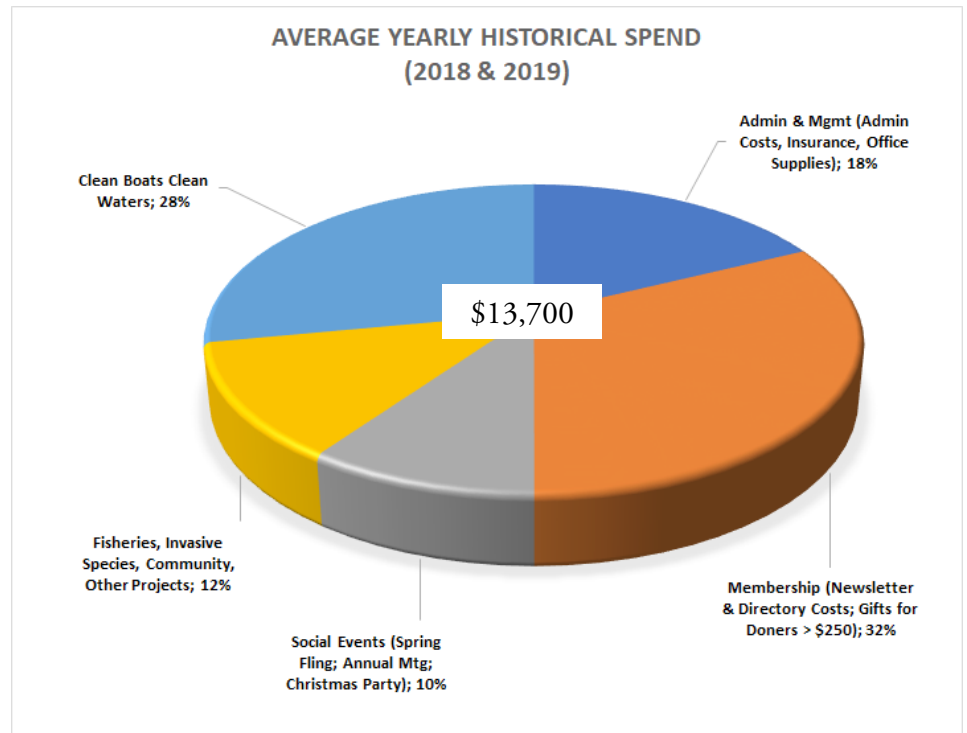
How does the Association spend my donation dollars?

Non-profit organizations, like ours, exist to support a mission.

Ours, as stated in the Bylaws, is:

“The Chippewa Flowage Property Owners Association, Inc. (Association) is a nonprofit organization, formed to generally promote, encourage and foster the interests of all property owners. The major objectives of the Association are: to keep the Chippewa Flowage area clean and safe for all people; 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.”

I know blah, blah, blah...but it is important for you who support our mission, through your membership dues and thoughtful donations, to understand Board authorized spending to support this mission. The following pie-chart represents historical Association yearly spending, an average taken from 2018 and 2019. It excludes 2020 as it was not a “normal” spending year.



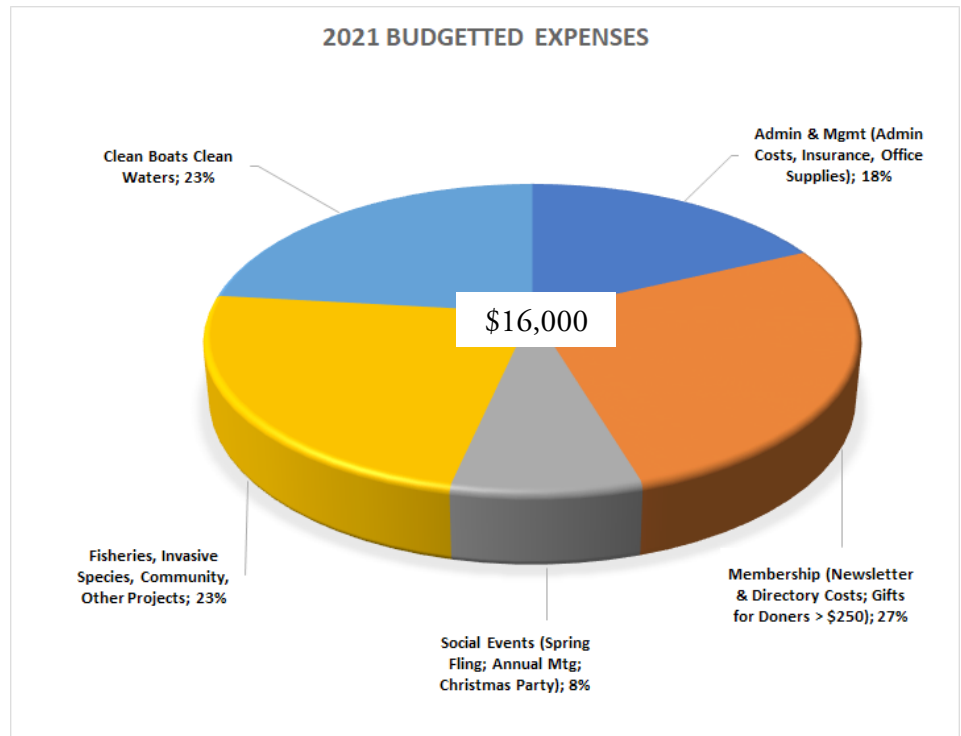
I am sure you are asking yourself, OK but...

Hopeful I can answer some of the questions you are probably having, but first a little context. An attempt was made to show how your dues and donations are being spent and does not include project costs offset by donations specifically collected for that project. A good example of this was our Boat Ramp Extensions project. We received donations specifically for this project that covered the costs.

Something else you may be thinking, why do we spend so much on Clean Boats and Clean Waters (CBCW), I thought this program was funded by the WiDNR. The grants received from the WiDNR only fund 75% of the overall expense of CBCW, we as an Association fund the other 25% percent. The percentage listed is the Association's cost offset by grants received from the WiDNR.

One last thing to consider, currently we do not account for volunteer hours. Including this would increase the percentage for our Programs/Projects. This is something the Finance Committee is investigating.

What is the spending plan for 2021; i.e., what is the budget for 2021? This is a good question! The following pie-chart represents the Board approved spending budget for 2021. This assumes that 2021 will be a "normal" year in terms of activities. Planned income from your dues and donations are expected to be approximately \$16,000 and expenses are planned to be approximately the same. To be fully transparent, we do expect to receive \$16,000 from the WiDNR for Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) but that income is offset by payroll for the ramp monitors and not included in this chart.



Another way to look at our CBCW program is the fact that the WiDNR contributes as much to that program as we contribute to the Association through all our yearly dues and donations. The total expense for CBCW for 2021 is \$19,680 (\$16,000 from WiDNR and \$3,680 in Association contribution).

You have might noticed that our 2021 expense budget is higher than in previous years and that the percentage of the spend for Fisheries, Invasive Species, Community & Other Projects as increased significantly!

We have heard from many of you and expect the results of the survey distributed in December will show fishing has gotten worse in the past years. We, as your Association leadership, acknowledge this concern and have budgeted \$3,000 toward improving our Fisheries. As we typically partner with the WiDNR or others in these types of projects,

they seem to have a "just in time" or "random acts of conservation" nature to them. We are anticipating that there will be another Pike Improvement Project as well as other opportunities to partner with the WiDNR on fisheries in 2021.

Due to the pandemic in 2020, most of our project's efforts/expenses were canceled and our income from your dues and donations outweighed our expenses. This has put us in a strong financial position as we move into 2021 to fund efforts to support the fishery and combat invasive species which includes CBCW.

If you have recommendations for any programs or activities related to the Flowage or community, please let us know by sending us an email at CFAPOA@gmail.com.

**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

BOARD MEETINGS AND EVENTS

February 4, 2021
March 4, 2021
April 1, 2021

Board meetings are currently held at 6:00 p.m. virtually on Zoom. Visitors are welcome to join. Contact Mike Gardner at mgardner@northflow.net



CFAPOA Newsletter Editor: Julie Thompson; Newsletter Advisors: CFAPOA Board Members;
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