

Membership – Ran Hoth, Nathan Westphal, Al Luke



<https://minocquakawaga.org/membership/>

MKLPA has greatly increased its focus on driving up our membership.

- Three new board members have been added to focus on growing membership
- A new membership software system, DONORVIEW, has been installed to better connect with our existing members as well as secure new members.
- We are recruiting membership "Shore Captains" around our lakes to help spread awareness "neighbor-to-neighbor", as we need everyone's engagement and support to manage aquatic invasive species, heavy lake usage and shoreline degradation. If you have interest in becoming a Shore Captain, please reach out to Ran, Al, or Nathan -



<https://minocquakawaga.org/contact-the-board/>

We have ~400 members today, which is still a small percentage of the number of lake residents and users of our pristine lakes. Let's face it - the benefit of membership is to retain the lake quality where we live, work and play. No local or state agency has the budget or manpower do this for us, we must take this on ourselves. Please join us every year!

Important Dates:



<https://minocquakawaga.org/2026-events/>

- Annual Meeting – August 1, 2026, at the Minocqua Fire Department
- Annual Pig Roast and Silent Auction – September 5, 2026, at Torpy Park

*A drop of water is a precious gift, requiring unity to protect every shimmer for a flourishing world.
Preserving lakes involves mindful stewardship—treating them as kinship rather than mere backdrops,
ensuring mirrors of blue remain for future generations.*

New Registration Instructions to Join and Donate

HELP MKLPA Save time and improve accuracy by registering ALL your information ONLINE -

1. Complete your information/registration: Online - **click QR Code to access Online Registration**
2. Pay your membership & annual donation Online using the MKLPA secure payment method
3. If mailing a check - please remit payment in this envelope via USPS ASAP - **after you have registered your information Online**
4. Don't have access to register Online - complete ALL information on enclosed envelope and remit with payment via USPS - ASAP



TOWN OF MINOCQUA EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS WATERCRAFT INSPECTOR

Questions regarding the position should be directed to Roben Haggart, Town Clerk 715-356-5296.



Message from the President – Steve Beckwith

As I slide my kayak into the still chilly waters on Kawaga for the first time this Spring, I am filled with anticipation for another season spent at the lake and reflect on just how lucky I am to be here on this magnificent piece of water. I love both the serenity of a quiet morning paddle, and the energy of a 4th of July weekend. We are all here because of the lakes, yet we all have different things that bring us joy from them. It is this challenge of balancing the desires of ALL lake users with the needs of our lake itself that keeps me up at night!

To that end, the MKLPA's mission is to maintain and improve the quality of our lakes for generations to come. Based on feedback from our members, the MKLPA Board of Directors has established the following 2026 initiatives focused on achieving this mission:

- Continue our aggressive efforts to control Eurasian Water Milfoil.
- Increase our focus on promoting Safe Watercraft Operation as lake traffic grows
- Launch a voluntary Natural Shorelines effort to improve water quality and aesthetics
- Boost Membership to increase engagement and involvement in MKLPA

First and foremost, I want to thank our Membership for your continued support, as well as our many Volunteers who give their time and energy. As you may know, there is no government agency that is managing the health of our lakes, it is up to all of us, that is why our lake association exists!

Second, I would like to thank our many partners who help us with these efforts, including the Town of Minocqua, Minocqua Police Department, WI DNR, Aquatic Plant Management (APM), Onterra, and the many area businesses who support our silent auction at the annual Pig Roast.

We have a lot going on in 2026 to continue our fight to preserve our most precious resource. I encourage you to read on, and hope that you will join us in our fight by renewing your membership, joining for the first time, or raising your hand to volunteer.

Membership input is what drives our efforts, so please don't hesitate to reach out to me at stevebeckwith28@gmail.com with your feedback or suggestions.

Thanks again, and we'll see you on the lake!



EWM Management – Peter Meyer

https://minocquakawaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/MinocKawa_Oneida_2025_EWM_MgmtMonitorReport_Mar_23-2026.pdf

Entering the 2026 summer season, MKLPA is cautiously optimistic regarding the status of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in our lakes. In our newsletter last fall, we shared an update that Minocqua and Kawaga were trending in the right direction and seeing some of the lowest amounts of EWM we've experienced in years. The fall survey completed by Onterra continued to show year-over-year improvement due to the rigorous ongoing management of EWM on the Chain. Some highlights, in 2025 we actively managed 48 acres of EWM, removed over 1,200 cubic feet of milfoil through DASH, hand, and mechanical harvesting, and applied herbicide on 10.5 acres. (For a detailed report of work done in 2025, please reference 2025 AIS Monitoring Report on our MKLPA website) That said, EWM has not gone away, and there are still many areas we are targeting for active management in 2026 through a combination of DASH, hand harvesting, and mechanical harvesting depending on the severity and density in each particular area. However, for the first time in several years, we are not planning any herbicide treatment in 2026 because there are no areas that meet the EWM density guidelines for herbicide application. We are in the process of finalizing our 2026 plan in conjunction with Aquatic Plant Management (APM) and will post this plan on our website once it has been finalized. We continue to face the challenge of significant reductions in grant money available to us to help pay for these activities. Budget cuts at State and Local entities are creating an environment where we expect the need to become almost entirely self-funded going forward.

While EWM will never be eliminated from our lakes, with the support of our members and partners, the MKLPA Board is committed to continued management of these invasive species so that everyone can enjoy Minocqua and Kawaga Lakes for years to come.

Clean Boats Clean Waters – Steve Beckwith



<https://minocquakawaga.org/clean-boats-clean-waters/>

MKLPA in cooperation with the Town of Minocqua will again support Clean Boats Clean Waters boat inspections at our boat landings in 2026. The goal of this program is to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species from lake to lake from contaminated boats and trailers. Last year over 1300 boats were inspected and boat owners were educated on the importance of keeping boats free of water and weeds when transporting between lakes.

Water Safety – Mark Clarke



<https://minocquakawaga.org/safety/>

As the popularity of our two lakes continues to increase, and the number, size, and speed of the watercraft on our lakes also grows, we need to adjust our approach to ensure that our waters remain SAFE for all users. To that end, we have several Water Safety initiatives for 2026:

1. Wakeboat Use:

- o Clearly identify and post maps showing recommended areas on our lakes for wake boat use that are in line with the current guidelines: Operate wakeboats under ballast only in greater than 20 feet of water and greater than 500 feet from shore. (Significantly reduces shoreline impact and lake bottom disturbance)
- o Post maps clearly identifying these designated areas at boat landings, restaurants, and in MKLPA Watercraft Safety tri-fold handouts.
- o The designated areas on our lakes actually exceed the guidelines for depth, which virtually eliminates any lake bottom disturbance.

2. Education:

- o Provide 3" x 3" boating "Safe Operation" sticker to be attached on all rental watercraft (pontoons / boats / jet skis) stating TOP 5 water operations rules.
- o Distribute MKLPA Watercraft Safety tri-fold handouts to over 50 locations around our chain of lakes including boat landings, boat rental businesses and resorts.

3. Enforcement:

- o Collaborate with the Minocqua Police Department to help fund a full-time boat patrol officer for the 2026 season. This officer will support our education efforts as well as enforce safe boat/jet ski regulations.
- o Assist the Minocqua Police Department with replacement of their old patrol boat by donating \$5,000 toward the purchase of a replacement boat.

Leading by example is one way you can support this effort every time you go out on the water.

Natural Shorelines – John Tedstrom



<https://minocquakawaga.org/what-can-you-personally-do/>

The goal of our Natural Shorelines initiative is to protect and preserve our lakes for generations to come. We plan to work with riparian homeowners and businesses to better filter what goes into the lakes and restore shorelines damaged by erosion. Benefits of natural shorelines include:

- **Improved Water Quality** - Natural shorelines act as a filter, reducing the amount of sediment, phosphorus, and pollutants from entering the lake and help maintain clear water. An engineering study performed a few years ago estimates that 3 million pounds of sediment will flow into our two lakes this year, it will be even more next year, as a result of impervious surfaces and shoreline erosion.
- **Enhanced Fish and Wildlife Habitat** - The native grasses, shrubs, and trees in a natural shoreline provide essential food, nesting sites, and shelter for aquatic and terrestrial species, including fish, waterfowl, and other wildlife.
- **Aesthetic Value** - Natural shorelines offer a priceless beautiful backdrop to our lakes, contributing to scenic views that are a big part of their appeal.
- **Shoreline Stabilization and Restoration** - Natural buffers help prevent erosion by stabilizing the soil with the plant's root systems. Restoration repairs damage from erosion.
- **Goose Repellent** - Canada geese flying overhead are beautiful, but not when they are congregating and defecating on our lawns. Natural vegetation creates a natural buffer that discourages geese because they don't like going ashore where they cannot see.
- **Increased Property Values** - A University of Wisconsin study analyzed lakefront properties in Vilas and Oneida counties. It found that average property values increased 7% to 12% where natural shorelines dominated the lake, thanks to the preservation of natural scenic beauty and clean water.

For more information on how YOU can take steps towards improving your shoreline today, including possible grant money available to assist you.

Visit - <https://minocquakawaga.org/protecting-our-shoreline/>

ReNew/ Join Online New for 2026



<https://minocquakawaga.org/join/>