

West Fork Waterway Assn, Inc

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WFWA Newsletter - August 2013

Dear West Fork Neighbors:

We've made great strides in only 1 year to save the scenic waterway of the West Fork in Clam Lake! In this newsletter, you will find a quick recap of the events from the past year concerning efforts to maintain this waterway. Thank you for your past, and future, support with this effort.

Last fall we learned that the small waterway between the US Forest Service Day lake Dam and Upper Clam Lake could disappear when the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) rebuilds the Hwy 77 Bridge in front of the Clam Lake post office. Several of us attended town meetings in November, January, March, May and June to figure out how to prevent the loss of this scenic wildlife area, which can be viewed from both Hwy 77 and Hwy GG. Canoeing this waterway, which is also the West Fork of the Chippewa River, we've seen swans, beavers, otters, ducks, and more. We needed to save the dam, or the view and the wildlife would be gone.

The DOT would rebuild the dam that was part of the bridge only if the Town of Gordon agreed to take ownership of the new dam. The Town of Gordon would take ownership of the dam only if the property owners agreed to help fund maintenance and future replacement or abandonment costs for the dam. As property owners and neighbors, we needed to organize to accomplish this. Town Board President, Jerry Jossart, spent many hours researching our options.

We have made considerable progress! In June, Ashland County agreed to contribute up to \$500 per year toward actual maintenance expenses. The Town of Gordon and owners signed a "letter of Intent" in June 2012. In July, a group of us formed a temporary board of directors for the association, and submitted articles of incorporation as a non-profit with the State of Wisconsin Department of Financial Services.

Early charter members contributed \$50 each for start-up costs, which will apply toward dues. We will meet again on August 11 to prepare for a public meeting on September 22, when all charter members who joined and paid \$50 toward dues, elected officers, and drafted association bylaws. Please consider joining us! Checks may be mailed to the PO Box at the top of this letter or given to Roger at Debs Y-Go-By. Donations from non-members will help too.

June 26, 2013 Update:

We have accomplished a good deal of work in our first 10 months of becoming the West Fork Waterway Association. In May we submitted our first check of \$500.00 to the Township of Gordon for Fiscal Year 2012-2013. This amount paid each year will go into a segregated bank account for the purpose of maintenance, inspections, and replacement or removal costs.

In June we had our Annual Membership Meeting, Rob Siotten and Chris Frasch were reelected to their respective positions. Also we voted to become a 501 (c) 3 Tax Deductable Organization, in order to apply we needed to amend our Disillusionment Article in our By-Laws. We were able to accomplish that, so we have sent the application to our attorney (who's help is pro bono) who will submit it to the IRS. Once this is done any donations given to the WFWA Inc. will be deductible on your federal taxes.

August update:

Work has been progressing on the new dam and the new box culvert. Please visit the website at www.clamlakewi.com/wfwa.html to see pictures of the original dam construction and also great pictures (taken by Roger and Chris) of the removal of the old bridge and dam and the construction progress.

The DOT Project manager has told us they are running behind schedule due to the late spring weather and high water and expect to complete the project in mid-September.

We need support for this important part of the Clam Lake Community History. Please, please help us by either becoming a member, or by making a donation. No matter how small they will be received with great appreciation.

Thank You from the Board of directors.

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Please help us minimize expenses by providing your email address for future updates.

The purpose of the Association is to preserve and protect the historic West Fork Waterway and wildlife area for recreation and public enjoyment of its scenic beauty today and in the future; and to assist the Town of Gordon, Wisconsin, in funding expenses related to maintenance of the Highway 77 Day Dam replacement.