

West Fork Waterway Assn, Inc

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WFWA Newsletter - April 2016

Dear West Fork Neighbors:

In this newsletter, you will find a recap of the efforts to maintain this waterway. Thank you for your past, and future, support with this effort.

On May 13, 2013 Construction started on the replacement dam, and continued into September.

Ashland County agreed to contribute up to \$500 per year toward actual maintenance expenses.

The WFWA pledged to donate \$500.00 each May to the Township of Gordon. These funds will go into a segregated bank account for the purpose of maintenance, inspections, and replacement or removal costs for the dam. Inspections are \$2500.00 and must be performed every 10 years.

We established a Website [www.clamlakewi.com/wfwa](http://www.clamlakewi.com/wfwa) hosted by Bud and Julie Rubeck. This has been very helpful for sharing our information with members and contributors. Please visit the website at [www.clamlakewi.com/wfwa](http://www.clamlakewi.com/wfwa) 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 WFWA Meeting notices, By-Laws, meeting agendas and other information are posted on our website.

On Fri, Jul 18, 2014 We became a 501(c)3 Federal Tax Deductible Organization. Memberships Dues and Donations paid to WFWA are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Some Comments WFWA board members have received:

Last summer: *"When my family came up yesterday they were in the kayaks within 2 hours and had a great time. It would be nice if others could enjoy our little prize also."*

*"Ice is off most lakes and the ducks and swans are floating and feeding on the waterway, so it's a rewarding sight and I'm sure all are thankful for the hard work and dedication to make this happen and to be appreciated for generations to come."*

May 2015 In attendance at the Town of Gordon meeting was the Ashland County Emergency Action Officer. The Town now owns the dam and, as required by law, must come up with an Emergency Action Plan for property owners in the flood plain in case of Dam failure. Town agreed to our suggested name of "**Clam Lake West Fork Dam**" during that meeting.

**WFWA had a Special Meeting to amend the WFWA By-Laws on Sept 5, 2015.** We changed our fiscal year from Jan1 - Dec 31 to July 1 - Jun30 to align our budgets and reporting with our Annual Membership meeting.

We have been investigating the construction of a primitive canoe/kayak landing. The construction of the new dam involved lots of Rock Rip-Rap that is not friendly to canoe bottoms or ankles. The DOT does not like folks parking

along the state highway or in front of the fire department water tap. We are currently looking at the Ashland County property on the SE side of the GG Bridge as a location. Town of Gordon may assist us if they can sponsor any grants. We approached the Highway department and they referred us to the Ashland County Forest Administrator . After we explained our vision, he suggested we attend the committee meeting to explain who we are and what we would like to have done.

On Oct 7 2015, Mike(P) , Roger(VP-Treas), Rob(Sec) and member Ruth Miller attended the Ashland County Forest & Recreation Committee. We presented our vision to the committee and they authorized Chris Hoffman (Ashland County Forest Administrator) to look into grants that may be available, and determine what it will take to put a landing in at that location. As Winter was rapidly approaching, little was accomplished over the winter, but Chris Hoffman has been in contact with us and when the weather gets better will meet with the Highway Dept. We know this is not a priority project and things may move slowly.

Annual Membership Dues are due by June 1st.

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. Even small donations will be greatly appreciated.

Beginning in 2016, WFWA is eligible to participate in Thrivent Financial's "Thrivent Choice® program". By directing Choice Dollars®, eligible Thrivent members can recommend which nonprofit organizations they feel should receive charitable grant funding from Thrivent. If you are an eligible member, please consider us when directing Choice Dollars. We plan to use Thrivent Choice grant funding to help support our mission. To learn more about Thrivent Choice, visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice). Or call Thrivent at 800-847-4836, and say "Thrivent Choice" when prompted. Search for "WFWA" to find our organization.

Thank You from the Board of directors.

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Please help us minimize expenses by providing your email address for future updates. If you wish to be removed from this list, Please send e-mail to [Rslotten@litewire.net](mailto:Rslotten@litewire.net), Call 608-212-1958 or let Roger Anderson know at the Y-GO-BY in Clam Lake.

*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.*