

DNR Grant Eligibility Requires that We Change Our Bylaws

With the recent discovery of Eurasian water milfoil on the TFF as well as the ongoing efforts to prevent the spread of curly-leaf pondweed to the TFF Trude Lake waterway, it is increasingly important to step up our efforts to combat these and possibly other invasive species. These invasives have the potential to severely impact the TFF Trude Lake waterway which could ultimately affect fisheries, recreational viability, and property values of the TFF and Trude Lake.

One way the TFFTLPOA is addressing this issue is to position the Association to be eligible for grants through the Wisconsin DNR. The initial step in that process is to complete the DNR's Grant Eligibility Application. One of the requirements of that application as defined in Wisconsin state statutes is that all members of the Association must be eligible to vote.

Our existing bylaws state that to be a member you must own property within one mile of the TFF Trude Lake waterway. With that membership comes the right to vote. The bylaws also state that a "Special Membership" is available for anyone who is not a property owner within one mile of the TFF Trude Lake waterway. This category of membership does not include voting privileges. We do not wish to discourage support of TFF Trude Lake waterway by anyone who is not a property owner, but we will need to modify the bylaws to change the membership and voting privileges to comply with Wisconsin requirements and become eligible for grants.

The Board of Directors is proposing a change in the bylaws to eliminate the "Special Membership" category and replace it with a "Friend of the Flowage" subscription category. This subscription would be available to anyone who does not qualify for membership. The Friend of the Flowage subscriber would not have voting privileges but would receive *Driftwood* and any other communications offered by the Association. They would also be eligible to participate in any educational opportunities we offer and would be able to participate in our conservation activities.

As per our bylaws, we will be holding a "special meeting" virtually via Zoom in December to discuss the changes to the bylaws and conduct a vote to approve these changes. A notice will be sent out via email in November to the membership with details of the meeting along with instructions on how to participate in the meeting via Zoom. The notice will also instruct you how to vote by proxy if you are unable to attend the meeting.

The Board of Directors strongly encourages you to review the proposed bylaws and support the changes with an affirmative vote.