

# **Chippewa Flowage Lake Association (CFLA)**

## **Charter Membership Update**

**November 28, 2007**

### **Charter Members:**

First of all, we thank you for becoming a charter member in this organization. We are confident that we will become an organization that you will be proud to say that you are a member. You are placing a “special trust” with us in this endeavor. We can do no better than to quote from the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership publication, People of the Lakes “A Guide for Wisconsin Lake Organizations”.

### **“A Special Trust**

With so many lakes and so few people to look after them, Wisconsin has always depended on dedicated women and men willing to invest their efforts and dollars to assure a long lasting legacy of lakes. Those people willing to take on the duties of running a lake association also take on some very special responsibilities to the citizens of this state. The waters of the state of Wisconsin belong to all of us. Their management becomes a balancing act between what is required to assure that healthy lake ecosystems continue to exist, and the rights and demands of the public and those who own property on the water’s edge.”

Our requirements for membership, unlike the other lake associations on the Chippewa Flowage, are open to everyone, any individual or group, which supports the purpose of the CFLA. We have no property ownership or tax paying requirements in our by-laws. Our open membership is based on the Public Trust Doctrine of the State of Wisconsin, which is an integral part of the state’s constitution, and will also assure us of being classified as a DNR “qualified lake association” that will allow us to receive state grants under the “Lake Management Planning Grant Program”. We hope to use these state funds to protect and improve these prized waters.

This is the first update issued by the Chippewa Flowage Lake Association. We now have all of the information necessary to communicate with you

about where we are in the process of becoming a viable lake association on the Chippewa Flowage.

So, where are we now in the process of becoming a great lake association?

- We are following the guidelines for developing a new lake association, outlined in the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership publication the People of the Lakes: “A Guide for Wisconsin Lake Organizations”.
- A steering committee has been formed to do business until an election of officers can be held.
- Articles of Incorporation, Chapter 181, Wisconsin Statutes, are filled; September 24, 2007
- The bylaws have been completed and ready for membership approval.
- We have an exceptional website that is operative, with some sections still under construction. [www.cfla.us](http://www.cfla.us)
- Application the DNR’s “Qualified Lake Association” has been submitted. (We have exceeded DNR’s requirement of 25 paid members for this standard).
- We have met unsuccessfully with different organizations to address the drawdown of water levels on the Chippewa Flowage.
- We have filled a complaint to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding the drawdown of the water levels of the Chippewa Flowage in the summer of 2006.
- We are in the process of organizing a membership meeting for the purpose of election of officers that will be held locally. Tentatively, we are trying to consider the feasibility of having the election on the Christmas holidays.

Now that we have an email mailing list, we will communicate with you when there are any new developments. Our principal method of communication will be via email. We will post each message on the CFLA website, which will be retained in the archives. Due to the low cost of our membership we do not have a regular mailing system established. Please check to make sure you have a paid membership so you will be able to vote at the forthcoming general membership meeting. There will be one vote per member. For example, if you are a married couple and both want to vote, you will need two memberships.

Please feel free to contact me regarding any questions or comments.

Chuck Block

CFLA