

Townsend Flowage Protection District

Fish Committee Meeting

January 6, 2023

The TFPD Fish Committee met on Friday, January 6, 2023 with Chip Long, Fish Biologist for the Wisconsin DNR. Those in attendance representing the Fish Committee were Bruce Beno, Scott Vande Voort, Carla Van Camp, Rich Bahr, Musky Mike Coenen, Gerry Birschbach, Mike Morgan and Jim Bieber.

Mr. Long explained his role with the DNR as our biologist. The goal of the DNR is to have a self-sustaining fish population which isn't always possible. He also spoke of the musky stocking the DNR has done every year since 2011 and the walleye stocking they have done every other year since 2008. Previous stocking of these species had also been done on an irregular schedule in prior years.

It was reported that the Townsend Flowage and Reservoir Pond are scheduled for a fyke net survey and electro-fish survey this year. The netting will occur as soon as the ice goes out in spring and followed up with the electro-fish survey. The last time this was done was 2016. Mr. Long shared the results of the previous survey. The 2023 surveys will provide a baseline for future stocking and management plans. The TFPD Fish Committee will use the results to make recommendations as to what we can do to improve fishing on the Flowage.

There was also discussion on aquatic vegetation and its direct effect on fish habitat, the use of herbicide and harvesting efforts, fish cribs and fish sticks, artificial reefs and possible consideration of dredging to remove muck which is prime habitat for weed growth.

Mr. Long reminded us that it is important to listen to our property owners and outside users of the Townsend Flowage. A survey could be considered.

It was the conclusion of the Fish Committee that no further action is required on our part until we see the preliminary results from the fyke study which may be available this fall. The complete report will be available in early 2024. It was suggested Mr. Long make a presentation at a future TFPD meeting once results of his surveys are available.

Chip Long invites any interest party with questions or concern to contact him directly at 715-582-5017 or email him at Christopher.long@wisconsin.gov

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Bieber