

**Agenda – March Meeting**  
**March 16, 2026 / 6pm    Location: Zoom**  
**Targeted end time 7:30 pm**

1. Procedural Items
  - Call to Order
  - Roll call and introduction of guests
  - Approval of minutes (SEE page 2)
  
2. Park Update
  - President
  - GM (SEE pages 3-5)
  - American Legion Steak Fry - Thursday May 7
  - Financial report
  
3. Old Business – Update re: onboarding of new ED
  
4. New Business – Items for potential action
  - New online event proposal: Ice contest (SEE page 6)
  - Proposed by-law revisions (SEE pages 7-9)
    - NOTE: By-law changes are to be voted on by the entire board – not just those in attendance at a meeting.*
    - The roll on this item will be left open for any member not present at the meeting to cast a vote.*
  - Annual Meeting
    - Date: April 27    Time: Need to set time
    - Location: Exec Committee needs to set location.
    - Membership: Per the calendar (SEE page 10) need direction on who is a member (for the purposes of voting rights)
  - Fundraising/Capital Campaign/BLA Proposal/Retention of Vendor (Greg/Ken A)
  - Future of camping at MWP (Ken S)

**PORTFOLIO REVIEW**

5. Portfolio Review – Items that have been requested to be discussed:
  - Tower House ops plan/marketing/pricing (Greg)
  - Strategic Plan (Wendy)
  - Event Planning for 2026 (Mike/Wendy)
  - Chalet card reader access (Wendy/Mike)
  - Wolf Tracks event report (Mike) (SEE pages 11-13 and separate PDF detail)
  
6. Portfolio Review – Other Updates (*If there is nothing new to report, that's fine*)
  - Other Improvements and events
    - East Entrance restroom (Ken S)
    - Informational kiosk near chalet (Greg)
    - Loopy Loppet (Ken S)
  - Procedure / Planning
    - Emergency Management Procedures (Greg)
    - Centralized digital storage (Greg)
    - Volunteer Procedures (Greg)
    - Bike trail usage development (Mike)
    - Risk Management Procedures (Greg)
    - Radios and Repeater (Greg)
    - Trail Maintenance Plan (Chad)
    - Ski Jor trail (Mike)
  
7. Adjournment

## MINUTES – January Meeting

January 12, 2026

### Procedural Items

Meeting was called to order at 6:02pm.

Roll call, present: Mike Trantow, Chad Metzger, Ken Schoville, Ken Aldridge, Greg Popovich, Joe Handrick, Wendy Kraly. A quorum was deemed present.

Guests present: Andrea, Jason and Stephanie

MOTION by Trantow, SECOND by Popovich to approve minutes of 03 November 2025 as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

Dates set for future meetings: Next 2 meetings will be march 16 and may 18.

### Park Update

President Metzger thanked everyone for helping get through the holidays.

GM report given.

### New Business

New scholarship and MWP alumni outreach effort. MOTION by Schoville to approve the scholarship, SECOND by Popovich. MOTION CARRIED.

Skijor Proposal presented by Trantow. No formal action taken.

## PORTFOLIO REVIEW

Portfolio Review – action items

- Snowmaking
  1. Committee Report presented by Aldridge.
  2. Resolution(s) re: Snowmaking. MOTION by Schoville, SECOND by Trantow to approve the snowmaking resolution. MOTION CARRIED.
  
- Adjustment to by-laws. Advisors to oversee the endowment fund. Secretary noted this requires an affirmative vote of 6 board members. MOTION by Handrick, SECOND by SCHOVILLE to approve the bylaw amendment. Voting in the affirmative were: Handrick, Schoville, Aldridge, Trantow, Popovich, Metzger and Kraly. With 7 votes in the affirmative, the MOTION CARRIED.

NOTE: Handrick left the meeting after Section 4.

Portfolio Review – updates (not action items). Updates were provided.

## CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session – The Board went into closed session to discuss strategy on items 4a, fundraising, and staffing shortages.

The board reconvened into open session.

Report from closed session - The Executive Committee announced in closed session and now in open session that it recommends the President retain Mike Trantow as Executive Director with a targeted start date of April 1.

## ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Schoville to adjourn, SECOND BY Trantow. MOTION CARRIED at 7:52pm.

# Management Report

Minocqua Winter Park Foundation - March 2026

## Significant Matters

- The 2025/2026 Winter season was an incredible success due to the teamwork of staff, volunteers, and the board. With the favorable conditions, we were able to welcome increased visitors across several recreation categories and multiple races.
- The new Flying Squirrel Tubing Hill brought new visitors and income to the park, while other infrastructure improvements continued (i.e., Tower House, Outdoor Bathroom), setting MWPF up for success in Spring, Summer, and Fall.
- Emergency planning is being reviewed with the help of the Fire Chief, Rich Carani, and volunteer James Bruno. MWPF invested in a repeater and additional radios.
- The Foundation will welcome a new Executive Director, Mike Trantow, on April 1, 2026.

## Income

### Passes & Membership

*Data through early March. Family passes count as 1 pass.*

- 225 season pass holders (↑ 21.85% vs 2024/2025)
- 40 Memberships
- 4,457 day passes for ski, snowshoe, and skijor (↑ 22% vs 2024/2025)
- 2,341 tubing session passes

### Races

- **Wolf Tracks** (Jan 31, 2026): 195 registered skiers (↑ 14.7% vs 2025)
- **Loopy Loppet** (Feb 28, 2026): 119 registered skiers (↑ 0.0% vs 2025)

### Sponsorships

- **Park Sponsors:** Slumberland Furniture of Minocqua, R.W. Baird, Aldridge Gives/Aldridge Electric, HT Glass & Mirror Center, Town of Minocqua, Redman Realty Group, Black's Cliff Resort, Johnson Sales Inc, Incredible Bank,, The Pointe Hotel & Suites
- **Tubing Weekend Sponsors:** Lakeland Disposal, Joe Handrick

# Management Report

Minocqua Winter Park Foundation - March 2026

## Operations

### Staff

- New hire for Executive Director, Mike Trantow. He will join the team on April 1, 2026. Many aspects of the operations will require additional staffing to run at full capacity.

### Volunteers

- Volunteers contributed 908.6+ hours between Oct 2025 and Feb 2026. New volunteer software simplified scheduling and waiver processes.
- LAMBO Bike Patrol and MWP Mountain Hosts at Wolf Tracks and Loopy Loppet.

### Park Visits

- 6,293 requests for directions through Google Maps from Oct 2025 - Feb 2026 ( ↑ 73.50% vs 2024/2025)
- ~11,275 visits processed through the front desk counter and tubing waivers ( ↑ 65.40% vs 2024/2025)
- Hosted
  - School Visits: Lac Du Flambeau, Arbor Vitae Woodruff (AV-W), Mercer, and North Lakeland all participated in the Youth Learn to Ski program. AV-W rented the large tubing hill.
  - Venue for the Lakeland Nordic Ski Team's Home Race (Jan 4) and Northern Conference Championship
  - The Fire Department hosted a gathering on the Tubing Hill and at the Chalet (Feb 15).

### Trails & Equipment

- **Trails:** The trails team worked hard to provide a wonderful outdoor experience for skiers, snowshoers, and tubers. During the holiday period, the team went the extra distance to clear extensive debris after a large storm. A new trail was developed on the Wilderness Trail system.
- **Equipment:** Equipment is continually evaluated for maintenance (e.g., gator repaired during season). The equipment facility was reorganized using Toyota's 5S process. Repeater installed, two radios repaired, three radios purchased.

### Facilities

- **Chalet:** Improved bathroom dispensers. We need to reevaluate the pass flow at Front Desk and plan for additional staff space.
- **Squirrel Hill Pavilion** is nearing completion with furnishings ordered.

# Management Report

Minocqua Winter Park Foundation - March 2026

- **Outdoor Bathroom** in progress.

## Communications

Medium	Count	Percent Change vs Oct 2025
MWP Facebook Followers	11,414	↑ 9.24%
Instagram Followers	1,919	↑ 7.87%
YouTube Subscribers	35	-
Newsletter Subscribers	465	↑ 2.2%

## Upcoming Calendar

Name	Date
<b>Black Bears in Wisconsin - Living Alongside the Northwood's Largest Carnivore</b>	April 25, 2026
<b>Annual Meeting</b>	April 27, 2026

## Acknowledgments

This report is possible due to the data collected by the MWPF team. Thank you to all staff, volunteers, and board members.

## **New Business – Online Ice Contest**

Abstract – An important component of successful marketing is getting consumers “geared up” for an event or a new product before the actual date or arrival on the market. For example, take note in the next two weeks of how CBS advertises “Coming This April – It’s The Masters on CBS.”

This proposal is for Minocqua Winter Park to sponsor an **on-line contest where participants (in October) predict the date that Lake Minocqua freezes over**. The purpose is to get patrons to start thinking about winter, starting to make their plans, and to drive traffic to the MWP website.

This event would not directly raise revenue, but it would raise awareness and interest in MWP and would cost virtually nothing.

History – For many years I sponsored such a contest on my Facebook page (winner received a gift card from Mamas Supper Club). A number of years ago I handed the promotion over to the Chamber who had some fun with it for a few years to get people excited about winter tourism.

Last Year – Each year as winter approaches, I receive communications (emails and/or texts) from all the places at which I ski (Granite Peak, Cascade, Powderhorn, Breckenridge) letting me know its snowing, that the season will start soon, and I should keep an eye on their webpage for opening dates.

The “ice-in” contest would be a teaser – a way to drive customers to our webpage in late November and early December (the typical freeze-over of the lake is around November 28). While there, they can see the snow status, outlook, and plans for the park. The trails may not be open yet, but that’s fine – we do not want to wait until we’re open to communicate with customers.

How It Would Work – Launch would be in Mid-October on our website and Facebook. Participants would have until November 1 to make their prediction. On November 2<sup>nd</sup> the prediction grid would be shared with participants. Then our official judge (TBD) would determine the freeze date. Ice-over is defined as when there is complete ice-over on the part of the lake stretching from Torpy Park to the northern end of Schoolhouse Bay (Schoolhouse Bay is behind Paul Bunyans, not the bay by the town hall).

The winner would be the person who guessed that date. If multiple people choose the correct date the winner is the person who submitted their guess first.

Leading up to the ice over, every few days we would give an update and a weather outlook on the FB page (along with reminders to “buy your season pass now” etc). Once a winner is named, he/she would receive a prize (maybe a restaurant gift card, gift card from the ski shop?).

### Explanation of Proposed By-Laws Changes

**Endowment Fund** – Below is the exact language that would make up the new section 9.07. Conceptual approval was given in January.

Section 9.07 Endowment Fund. The Board of Directors shall appoint independent advisors to oversee the Endowment Fund. These Advisors are not to be part of the Board. Their only responsibility is to oversee and protect the Endowment Fund. The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to generate income through investment for the operation of the Park and Foundation. No principal shall be withdrawn from the Endowment Fund without unanimous Board approval and the full 100% approval of the independent Advisors. The number of advisors appointed by the Board shall be at least 2 but not more than 5.

**Clarifying who is responsible for sharing election information with members** – In general, the Secretary is responsible for administering the election. There are three changes intended to clarify this responsibility.

First, the following is being added to 7.07 (Secretary) to make it clear that the Secretary will **not** perform those duties when he/she is on the ballot themselves. Last year, Joe properly recused himself from these duties, but nothing in the by-laws required him to do so. Below is the new language added to 7.07:

The Secretary shall perform the election-related duties outlined in Sections 5.03 and 5.04 of these Bylaws except in years in which the Secretary stands as a candidate for the Board of Directors. When the Secretary cannot perform those duties, the designated elections official appointed under Section 5.04 (d) shall perform election related duties.

Second, you'll notice the new language in 7.07 refers to a "designated elections official appointed under Section 5.04 (d)". The current bylaws say, "The Secretary of the Corporation or *other person*" shall count and tally votes. The term "other person" would be removed and replaced with a Board "designated elections official." The term "designated elections official" would also be added in Section 5.03. With this change, the election sections of the by-laws would uniformly provide that, "the Board Secretary or designated elections official" would administer the election. This ensures that there is a designated person responsible for these tasks in the event the Secretary is a candidate themselves.

Third and finally, a change is being made to clarify that the ED or manager of WMP shall assist in communicating with members. This is important because the Secretary does not have direct access to the membership list. The following is being added to 5.03:

The Executive Director or Managing Director of the Corporation shall assist the Board Secretary or designated elections official in making these communications available to Members of the Corporation.

**Adding a notification of election requirement for members** – The current bylaws do not require that members be notified that an election is upcoming and that there are seats to be filled. Once candidates have submitted their candidacy paper, only then are member notified about the upcoming election, but then it's too late if they wish to be a candidate. To fix this, the following is added to 5.03 to add such a requirement so members know of the opportunity to run:

The Board Secretary or designated elections official shall notify the Members at least forty (40) days before the annual meeting as to the number of Board seats that will be filled in the election and what a Member must do to be a candidate for one of those seats.

**Bringing vote casting in line with Wisconsin law for public elections** – MWP elects its board members at-large (as opposed to specific districts or seats). Under Wisconsin law for such multi-member seats that are at-large, voters are allowed to cast as many ballots as there are open seats. For example, if there are 2 town board seats up in the town of Woodruff and 3 candidates running, each voter can vote for up to 2 candidates and the top 2 vote-getters win.

MWP doesn't follow this system, however. The changes proposed to 5.04 are intended to bring our voting system in line with how state law governs public elections. (NOTE: A non-profit is not compelled to follow the democratic system used for public elections, but the exec board believes we should attempt to follow generally accepted democratic processes.) This will provide greater transparency (tallying and reporting of votes is straightforward) and greater speed (tallying and reporting of votes can be done in one day instead of taking up to a week).

Section 5.04 currently says that voters can cast as many ballots as there are candidates – members have to rank the candidates. This would be changed to say voters can cast as many ballots as there are *seats to be filled*. For example, if there are 4 seats up for election, each member gets to vote for up to 4 candidates. The top four vote-getters are elected. This system ensures that the candidates who receive the greatest number of votes are elected and tallying is much quicker.

5.04 (b) says the Board shall establish written procedures to ensure members have the opportunity to vote without needing to physically be at the annual meeting. This provision remains unchanged.

**Tallying of ballots** – 5.04 (d) currently says that the Secretary shall tally the vote and report results to the candidates and the Board. As previously mentioned, this is amended to say this task shall be done by the Secretary or the designated elections official. Again, this is to ensure the Secretary doesn't handle ballots when he/she is a candidate.

5.04 (e) currently says the winners need to be posted on the website within 7 days. This is being changed to 2 days since tallying will be much quicker.

**Tie votes** – The current bylaws give the Board the power to fill a seat when there is a tie vote. This would be amended to provide two options. Option 1 would be random selection - this is how public election ties are decided. Option 2 would continue to allow the Board to break the tie (essentially how the current bylaws do it). Language is also added to clarify that, regardless of which option is chosen, the Board may appoint a non-winning candidate to an open board seat as provided in Section 5.07.

NOTE: The need to break a tie only comes into play when the tie is for the last available seat. For example, if there are 4 seats up for election and the tie is between the 2 highest vote getters, there is no need to break that tie. But if the tie is for the 4<sup>th</sup> seat, then the tie must be broken.

**Committee Chairs** – This change clarifies that it is permissible for a non-board member to chair a committee. The current bylaws are silent on the matter. All chairs would still be named by the Board. Also proposed is a change to permit a non-member to serve on a committee if they bring a desired expertise to that committee. Section 5.09 (b) would read as follows (new language in red).

(a) Committees shall either consist solely of Directors of the Corporation or consist of at least one Director of the Corporation and one or more individuals who are Members of the Corporation but not Directors. **In the case of the latter, an individual who is a Member of the Corporation but who is not a Director may serve as Chair.** The Board of Directors may adjust the chair and membership of any committee and may also designate alternate members, who may replace any absent or disqualified member at any meeting of a committee to which those alternate members are designated. **Notwithstanding the requirement that committee members be Directors or Members of the Corporation, it is permissible for the Board to name one person who is not a Member of the Corporation to a committee if the Board determines that individual has a unique and valuable skill set, experience, or knowledge base which would benefit the committee.**

*NOTE: The language in the bylaws that says a committee which includes a non-board member shall act only in an advisory capacity remains in effect.*

**Clarification for current duties by Land Stewardship Committee** – Committees that include a non-board member are advisory only – they have no power. Although it doesn't have any power, The Land Stewardship committee, does perform certain functions (that have been granted by the Board). This change is intended to clarify that these functions of the committee are permitted by the bylaws. 5.09 (e) is created to say:

Notwithstanding paragraph (d), the following duties may be granted by the Board to the Minocqua Winter Park Land Stewardship Committee as part of its fiduciary duties:

1. Communications with landowners.
2. Monitoring of land and trail use agreements, trail easements, conservation easements, and Managed Forest law contracts.

In short, these final two changes are intended to permit the committee to continue operating as it now does, but ensures that operation is consistent with the bylaws.

Here is the 2026 MWP Board Election Schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Action Needed</u>	<u>Authorization</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>
Prior to March 18	Make sure we have an updated and clean list of members (both for knowing who can seek a seat on the board and who can cast a ballot). *	3.02 (c)	Andrea/Mike
Wednesday, March 18	Members notified of upcoming election and instructed how and when to file a candidacy paper	N/A **	Joe will draft, Andrea will send to members
Sunday, March 29	Deadline for candidates to return candidacy paper	5.03 - candidate papers must be returned no later than 30 days before annual meeting	Each candidate
Wednesday, April 1	Validate candidates and approve for ballot	5.03	Joe assisted by Andrea/Mike
Thursday, April 2	Prepare ballot	N/A ***	Joe assisted by Andrea/Mike
Friday, April 3	Format candidate papers and prepare to send to members.	504 (b)	Andrea/Mike
Monday, April 6	Candidate papers shared with MWP members	5.03 - requires candidacy papers be made available to members in a timely manner	Andrea/Mike
Monday, April 6	Ballots and instructions sent to MWP members	5.04 (b) - ballots must be sent to members at least 21 days prior to annual meeting	Andrea/Mike
April 6-27	Receive and store ballots returned electronically by members	504 (a)	Andrea/Mike
Monday, April 27	Election conducted at Annual Meeting ****	4.01 and 5.04 (d)	Joe assisted by Andrea/Mike

\* New names could be added up until the date of the election. Any candidates must also be a member by election date.

\*\* There is no notification requirement in the bylaws, but we should notify members of opportunity to run

\*\*\* There is no specific requirement to prepare a ballot, but this obviously must be done

\*\*\*\* Members attending annual meeting vote on this date, those who vote electronically must have voted by the time of the meeting

Seats to be filled in...

**2026 2029 2032**

- 1. Greg Popovich**
- 2. ~~Bridget Milney~~**
- 3. Nick Colianni**
- 4.**



# Wolf Tracks Rendezvous 2026

## 24K & 48K Ski Race

Held Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026



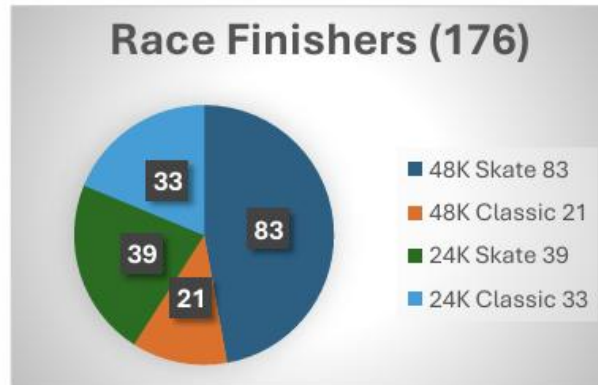
### BASICS

#### Attendance:

195 Registered skiers,  
176 Finishers...  
vs ... Target of ~200 (180 in 2025)

#### Home Locale

Mostly WI, next MN, IL, IA,  
1 each MI, ID, WY



#### Finances

Revenue: \$17818.93 vs \$16000 budget  
Cost: \$4316.92 vs \$9350 budget  
**Net Income: \$13502 vs \$6650 budget**

\$745 Donations vs \$1000 goal



#### Volunteers:

45 people, 65 Slots ... ~175 hours \*  
\*NOT including Staff and Pre-Race committee prep

Happy Ski Racers with MOSTLY positive responses

**\*NOTE\*** Race Committee had decided Jan 19<sup>th</sup> to cancel or go “Open Format”  
**Why?** Lower signup (85), Lack of volunteer/staff to support regular 24K & 42K races  
**UNTIL** we reconsidered the “optics” and finances, leading to a  
compromised Loop format

## Positives – Successful Event

- Pulled off with less cost and effort, despite challenges
- Registrations and Income beat expectations
- Excellent Race Staff: GM/Chalet, Grooming, and Timing
- Great volunteers!
- New Loop format and Mass Start worked well for less work  
-> AND MOST participants liked the format/course.  
( Note - No morning Tubing session )
- Super Course

- **Select FEEDBACK**

**Participant:**

“The course, grooming, and aid stations were all great! Soup at the end was delicious. Everyone was friendly and helpful.”

**Volunteer:**

“Registration ran smoothly.  
Really liked just 1 wave for each race, gave racers a chance to ski together and got everyone out on course quicker”

**Timing:**

“Overall, I feel it was an out standing event and one of the most organized since I start timing Wolf Tracks for Winter Park!”

# Room for Improvement

- Planning – start earlier. Need Full time Race Director – vs split duties between Mike, Ken, Andrea
- Pre-Race Publicity and Post-Race coverage local/social media
- Challenges with late change to loop format and wave start times: mainly in pre-race communication to participants, but also volunteers
- Volunteer management/communication Hybrid of FWP & VolunteerLocal
- Loop and course signs good, but needed more in advance (esp. 48K, arrows)
- Shorten wave time intervals ( 5-10 min) – confirm with Timing
- Need to optimize waves, number of skiers on course and feed station pinch points ( course can handle ~200 skiers, Largest Wave < 100 or ChipStart )
- Feed station needs more space/tables and stagger sides reducing “pinch”  
\*AND\* Supplies ran low for late arrivals (water and gels)
- Awards/Swag - We could (and should) provide more swag with proper advance planning “Bring back the mugs and Wooden Awards”
- Marketing for Race Sponsors to offset cost / bring in more revenue
- Beverage options – either drop sales or discourage “carry-ins”/competition
- Race morning parking needed more equipment, cones, vests
- Post results Earlier ( printouts, screens, online ), DURING Race if possible
- Skip trouble-some “hair-pin downhill” on Wolf Tracks
- Course “Hair Cut” – mainly South of Manhardt - Side-brush overhang for Classic Skiers. Overhead trimming for groomers/equipment
- Understaffed for 3 Client Sets: Race, Non-race skiers, later tube session
- Need to recruit younger crew of volunteers