

December 8, 2009

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Northern Region
810 W. Maple St.
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Subject: Final Report for AIS Grant Project No. AEPP-098-08 (as amended)

Summary:

Throughout the months of May through September in 2008 and 2009 the Chetek Lakes Protective Association (CLPA) monitored six of the busier boat landings on the Chetek Chain of Lakes. CLPA also purchased five large AIS signs which were installed at the north and south entrances to town, on highway "M" leading to Ojaski Lake, and near the Pokegama bridge on highway "D". In addition AIS signs were added to the information Kiosks at the 18 boat landings on the chain of lakes. The CBCW monitoring and sign programs have brought about an enhanced awareness of the AIS problems and methods to contain them and prevent their spreading into our lakes.

CLPA directed a staff of 13 volunteers in monitoring six of the busier boat landings: Browns, Hoover, and Veterans Park landings on Prairie Lake, Pokegama bridge landing on Pokegama Lake, Airport landing on Chetek Lake, and the South End landing on Ojaski Lake during the months of May through September in 2008/09. Under the CBCW program volunteers devoted more than 300 hours inspecting water craft and trailers and distributing informational packets on AIS and VHS prevention. As reported in our SWIMS reports, 366 water craft entering and leaving the lakes plus 502 trailers in the parking lots were inspected. Packets which included information on VHS, Eurasian milfoil, curly leaf pondweed, purple loosestrife, rusty crawfish, round goby, and zebra mussels were given to all water craft operators or placed on windshields of parked vehicles. Also included were "STOP AQUATIC HITCH HIKERS" decals to be placed the trailers so other inspectors would know the individual had received an AIS packet. All people contacted were also briefed on the devastating effects of spreading AIS and VHS, and the ways to prevent this from happening. It is encouraging to note the positive response volunteers received from everyone.

Three large, professionally designed 4' x 8' AIS signs have been placed on highways "M", "D", and "SS", and two back to back 4' x 4' AIS signs have been installed on highway "I" near the Chetek Tourist Information Booth. These prominent signs plus the AIS signs added to the information Kiosks at the 18 boat landings ensure that virtually everyone visiting Chetek or using one of the lakes will be aware of our efforts to stop the spreading of AIS.







Although not on a scheduled basis, all lake waters and shores were monitored by CLPA board members and other volunteers during this two-year period. Other than curly leaf pondweed, which has been present in Ojaski lake for sometime, no other invasive species were seen.

Unfortunately CLPA was unable to identify a suitable trash container to be placed at boat landings. However, we are continuing our search for stable, vandal-proof receptacles for the disposal of weeds and unused minnows.

Overall CLPA considers our AIS monitoring and informational programs hugely successful. The project's success can only be attributed to the great efforts of our staff, the volunteers who contributed so many hours, and especially to the support of the Spooner DNR staff..

August J. Bleske
Project Manager